■ Magazine
Take unforgettable tour with Pied Piper of old Manila

■ News / A2
NPAs ambush, kill lieutenant, 5 soldiers in Samar

■ Lifestyle
Horgie & spa mystery, new children's story by Gilda Cordero-Fernando

■ Sunday Biz / B1
Heir to big family fires strikes out on his own

JOB
Check out exciting career opportunities

Senate to ask GMA to bar Burma from Asean chair

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio

SENATORS are looking to President Macapagal-Arroyo to make an official government denial to block Burma (Myanmar) from assuming the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in 2006.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Ban the bar; it's not true test for lawyers–Miriam

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

Sunday, April 10, 2005 ● 32 pages | vol. 39 | no. 121
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Italians want papacy back

Filipino clerics, religious want 'global,' pro-immigration pope

By Lira B. Zulueta

THE MAN WHO LOVES MARY: On the 18th anniversary of the assassination attempt on his life, Pope John Paul II in May 1981 celebrated a thanksgiving Mass in the Chapel of the Apparition before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in Fatima, Portugal, where the Virgin Mary, the faithful believe, appeared to three shepherd children. In 1981, the Pope dedicated a shrine to his native Poland to Our Lady of Fatima, thanking her again for "deflecting a bullet fired at point-blank range by a Turkish terrorist."

VATICAN CITY—With memories of his dramatic papacy and moving funeral still fresh in their minds, Filipinos in Rome, like all other Catholics around the world, have turned their attention to the aftermath of a papal death: the election of John Paul II's successor.

Although there are no clear frontrunners, Filipino and foreign clerics and religious based here believe the leading contenders are Italian—if only because the Italians may wish to restore the papacy to themselves.

"The talk is that the Italians have been figuring it out—how to get back the papacy," said Fr. Jerry Orbos. "After all, the pope is supposed to be the bishop of Rome."

On Saturday, the Vatican and the Roman Catholic cardinals preparing to elect a successor to John Paul II' had agreed to stop talking to the media and focus on preparing for the voting process starting next week.

Leading Italian candidates are:

- Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi of Milan, said to be a moral theologian close to Opus Dei, an organization of traditional Catholics;
- Cardinal Angelo Scola, the archbishop of Venice and a frontliners who shares John Paul II's teachings on sexual morality and the sanctity of marriage;
- Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, a Vatican bureaucrat;
- Cardinal Mario Antonelli of Florence; and
- Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone of Genoa, who has served as secretary of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican doctrinal enforcer.

Bertone figured in the news lately when he lambasted the Da Vinci movie, "The Vinci Code," about an alleged

TURN/PAGE A20

Wanted: Mystic pope who can turn on the young

By Ma. Consuelo Dayo

FEW moved theologians in the Philippines have drawn up for the Inquirer a wish list on what the successor of Pope John Paul II should be.

He must be a "mystic" pope who must be able to "turn on" the young. He must embody the virtue of Jesus. He must rescue global capitalism in order to calm the poor.

He should give more space for women in the Church. He should continue to promote interreligious dialogue among different faiths and deepen the "ecumenism" of the Church.

For Jesuit theologian Fr. Catalino Arevalo, a great admirer of John Paul II, the next pope should be "a continuation of the positive things ... even with a different style, different institutionalism."

"The young are looking for faith and truth, and hold high aspirations in their minds and hearts, and want to give true meaning to their lives," says Arevalo, whom Pope Paul VI tried John Paul II had appointed to serve in the 30-man International Theological Commission, which meets every year.

"They" hoped to John Paul II a figure of hope. All of us are largely disillusioned with our politicians," he says.

Also on Arevalo's list are women, around its sophistication issues, toward which the late Pope has been strongly unsympathetic.

TURN/PAGE A20

Who sat where; even bitter foes shook hands

VATICAN CITY—World leaders—some at political loggerheads or even officially at war—rubbed shoulders and gave each other the kiss of peace at John Paul II's funeral.

Dignitaries were seated in alphabetical order, according to the names of their countries in French, the accepted language of diplomacy.

The alphabetical seating plan divided heads of state whose relations were frosty or even nonexistent.

US President George W. Bush and French President Jacques Chirac—divided over the US-led war in Iraq—were separated only by Bush's wife Laura as the ousted rose to the right of the altar in front of St. Peter's Basilica.

Chirac bowed to kiss the hand of US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who smiled broadly.

Bush closed his eyes with Kaczik folded.

Tunisian shares the same row: was Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, who greeted Syrian President Bashar Assad before taking his seat.

Washington has tense relations with Syria and Iran—with Iran.

At one point, Israeli President Moshe Katsav shook hands with the leaders of Israel's archenemies, Syria and Iran, Katsav's office said.

"During the prayers, according to the Christian tradition we exchanged handshakes ... During this, it was the Syrian president who extended his hand to me and we again shook hands," Katsav told the workers of the Maariv daily.

Also in Tehran here, Khatami strongly denied that he shook hands with Katsav.

TURN/PAGE A20

After lifetime of waiting, Charles, Camilla wed

WINDSOR, England—Britain's Prince Charles married Camilla Parker Bowles, the true love of his life, on Saturday in a private civil ceremony that inevitably pulled against the televised wedding in Prince Diana more than 20 years ago.

Charles, 56, the heir to the British throne, and Camilla, 57, were married at the 17th-century Guildhall in Windsor, town of London, with an afternoon service of blessing and reception at neighboring Windsor Castle in Berkshire.

Camilla, now officially her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall, wore an ivory cream dress, matching full-length coat and a broad hat festooned her trapped with feathers. The groom opted for a classic black morning suit.

Opinion polls showed a majority () accept Charles and Camilla finally tying the knot—but less than one in 10 support his becoming queen one day.

The wedding was dogged by

"A CASE of two old people getting hitched," Camilla Parker Bowles herself had said to describe her long-awaiting day when she married the man she's loved for more than three decades.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2004

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mostly sunny Metro Manila will experience mostly dry days with scattered afternoon and evening showers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated thunderstorms.

Second FRONTPAGE

NPA kills 6 soldiers in ambush

By Joey A. Gabieta and Joel Arriaga
INQ Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY— Six soldiers, including an army lieutenant, were killed in an ambush in Western Samar, officials said yesterday.

The soldiers were traveling through Calbiga town in 7 p.m. Friday when they were attacked by 30 New People's Army rebels, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan said.

The fatalities were identified as Lt. Philmarion Tac, Staff Sergeant Saad Cardeo and (armed) invalids; one Captain Geraldo Pet. Ilonzeta Acosta and another private identified only as Jacob.

All were members of the 63rd Infantry Battalion based in Barangay Panapunan, also in Calbiga town, under the command of 2nd. Brig Lazaro.

Palparan, commander of the army's 8th Infantry Division covering Samar and Leyte, said the rebels positioned themselves on an elevated area in Barangay Cambagan when they fired at the soldiers who were on their way to Barangay Sinalagutan to check on the reported presence of armed men there.

Palparan admitted that the slain soldiers committed security lapses in going to the area and were apparently tricked into believing there would be a convention.

Although outnumbered and "ensnared in the enemy," the soldiers gallantly fought back but were killed after a 10-minute firefight, he said.

There were no casualties reported on the rebels' side.

Palparan condemned the killing and warned that the military would soon launch massive clearing operations in the town.

He said the number of guerrillas in the area had increased as a result of massive recruitment operations.

Friday's ambush was the biggest blow to government troopers in Eastern Visayas by the NPA. Their last major attack was on a military detachment in Gandara, Eastern Samar, that left five soldiers, 14 militiamen and a civilian dead.

Palparan, who assumed command of the army's 8th ID in February this year, vowed to intensify the insurgency problem in Eastern Visayas within six months to a year.

In an earlier interview with the Inquirer, Palparan said that "no alliance may would be the best option to end the insurgency in Eastern Visayas."

However, he admitted that they would still need the support of civilians and the cooperation of the business sector to achieve peace in the region.

"We will ask the ordinary people not to support the rebels and are will also ask NGOs and businesses to extend (livelihood) assistance to cut the rebels' manhour," he said.

According to Palparan, there are 600 to 700 fully armed rebels on Samar Island and about 1,000 more in Leyte.

With AP reports

Military: NPA at doorstep of Metro Manila

By Fe B. Zamora

THE COMMUNIST New People's Army has forces in and around Metro Manila in anticipation of a "general uprising" that would lead to an eventual takeover of power by the rebels, according to a secret intelligence briefing paper intended for top military officers.

The NPA presence in the capital was supported by "pragmatic forces" which engage in "mass or class propaganda and even "character assassination" of politicians in an attempt to "lower their credibility," according to the 20-page briefing paper.

The paper said the daily street rallies were just "fronts enhancers" for the general uprising.

"Times the epidemic [lies] of discontent and agitation hits the nation, the subjective forces are built up and are ready to strike at their common opponents—the seat of political power," the document said.

Excerpts

The military released excerpts from the briefing paper titled "Knowing the Enemy: Are we Missing the Point?" as the media this week following the controversy caused by the Armed Forces having reportedly labeled two media groups as being communist fronts.

Navy Lt. Commander Sulong Quimson, who conducted the briefing, said the paper was based on documents seized from, and statements of, captured insurgents.

Quimson said the country is to express that the NPA was losing the way, "movements are happening in Bulacan, Batangas, Aklan. We can lose them as the doorsteps of Metro Manila.

"Just because you don't see the NPA, it doesn't mean the enemy is not there. That is a false sense of security. We should be aware of what is happening around us and how people would influence other people," Quimson said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Many

According to Quimson, the NPA was "many" in the 1980s because "they know they were not really strong."

The NPA, whose regular membership reached an all-time high of 26,000 in 1988, suffered a serious setback after it was exposed that it had killed its own members it had suspected of being government agents, he said.

He said a disagreement among its leaders also split the Communist Party of the Philippines, which is now standing by founder Jose Sison, group of so-called "reaffirmists" while those opposing him were branded as "rejectionists."

The paper said it was Sison's treatise, "Philippine Society and Revolution," that provided the foundation for the NPA's strategy of a "people's protracted war."

According to Quimson, the military borrows a communist revolution similar to the "bloodless" in Ukraine and the Solidarity uprising in Russia.

"Nobody knew it, nobody was able to predict it, but it happened and they took over power," he said.

Fighting fronts

He said the NPA controls 120 guerrilla fronts nationwide, most of which are in Mindanao.

These "fighting fronts" are intended to "draw away" the Armed Forces in the south, thus allowing the rebels to flourish in Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog, the two regions that "surrounds" the metropolis.

The documents also identified several groups allegedly the CPP/NPA had control or was trying to control.

These groups included Lumad Mindanao, Nakpamuno ng Bayan laban sa Mamayan ng Pilipinas, Congress of Organization for Unity, Reform and Advancement of Government of Employees (Courage), Pinag-isang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Pistop), College Editors Guild of the Phil., the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Phil., Secretariat for Social Action of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Phil., Philippine Independent Church, National Council of Churches in the Philippines, United Church of Christ in the Phil., United Methodist Church of the Phil., Free Legal Assistance Group, Protestant Lawyers League of the Phil., Rizal Data Bank, Agham, National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP), Philippine Education Theater Association (Peta), among others.

Esperat murder suspect gives up

By Aquilino T. Zonio
INQUIRER Northern Mindanao

TACURONG CITY, Sultan Kudarat—One of the four suspects in the March 24 killing of Marlene Garcia Esperat, an anti-corruption crusader and columnist of a local community paper, The Midland Review, is undergoing interrogation by the police.

The suspect, Randy Garcia, alias Jake, surrendered two days ago to a General Santos City police official whom he refused to identify, confirmed Garcia's supervisor.

Police Senior Supt. Pat Marquiadales told reporters the police official, whom he refused to identify, confirmed Garcia's surrender.

Garcia allegedly served as one of the three backhoe riders the gunmen rented. Esperat's house was hit by...

Police sources said the suspect identified the gunmen as Faustino Ebanzado, alias Jun Ebanz, while the two other backhoe riders were Jerry Calbayog and Dori Balcoron.

Chief Supt. Antonio Nilleses, police director for Central Mindanao, said operations were ongoing to capture the other suspects.

Tenorio said Garcia told police the killing of Esperat had something to do with her report involving high officials of the Department of Agriculture in Central Mindanao.

As this developed, more than two thousand people showed up for the funeral of Esperat at the Sharing in Calvary lot yesterday morning.

Lilibeth Garcia, elder sister of Marlene, said they had expected about a thousand people for the mourners that showed up was more than twice that.

"We didn't expect such a big turnout of sympathizers," she said.

Among those who attended the burial were the governor, the mayor, Sultan Kudarat's 1st congressional district, Col. Jerry Idanan of the 604th Army Brigade, Philip Carbonell representing the National Press Club and journalists from the Kinab Centrum Sultan Kudarat Campaign Committee (Kuncasingco) were.

In Manila, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. sought a Senate investigation into the Esperat killing and vowed to closely monitor the police investigation of her case.

Pimentel revealed that Esperat had written President Macapagal-Arroyo more than a month before her death, asking for protection because of death threats she had received.

The opposition senator said Esperat may have "been brutally or unintentionally identified her own killer by naming certain personalities in her letter who had no role or great stake but after she died these became."

In Legaspi City meanwhile, Senior Supt. Roger Ramirez, Albay police director, admitted difficulty in solving media killings in the province due to lack of witnesses.

Among the unsolved killings are those of John Villanueva, radio commentator in dyGB; Joy Evelyn Wilkinson, a former GMA-7 reporter; Rowell Endrinal, a dyRC commentator; and Beverly Mercurio, a DWP radio commentator. IFEX reports from Aidel Lalongisip-Arevalo, and Ed U. Bacuetes, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PNB names new head

WITHIN hours since Mar has been appointed president of Philippine National Bank by the PNB board, replacing Lorenzo Tan who resigned recently a new announcement yesterday.

Mar, who joined PNB as executive vice president on Aug. 15, 2005, said he had accepted the bank's appointment which, however, would still need the approval of the bank's stockholders during their annual meeting in May.

Mar, whose services as EVP expires on Aug. 15, said he would assume the presidency in an acting capacity until officially named during the stockholders meeting.

In a statement, PNB said its directors had expressed confidence that Mar would be "able to execute the improvements in PNB's operations and financial conditions in the coming years."

Mar joined PNB as its chief credit officer and eventually was appointed head of its handled credit policy formulation and restructured credit policies more effective and responsive to the bank's various loan customers.

He was also tasked to manage the bank's loan portfolio, particularly its non-performing loans (NPL) accounts. From a high of P50.5 billion in June 2005, or 33 percent of its total loan portfolio, Mar reduced the NPL level to P37.6 billion or 20 percent as of end-2005.

As chief of Metrobank Mar spent three years (the youngest to rise that level, doubling the bank's assets to P181 billion and more than doubling its net profit to P1.5 billion in one year 2002. He also helped form a consortium of payment in 1997.

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UP officials score new Charter bills' provisos

By Nicole Puga

THE CONGRESS legislators just would not leave the University of the Philippines alone.

Even as they prepare to fight for cooperation and enthusiasm of a new UP Charter designed to bring the university up to par with the best international academic institutions, UP officials have expressed alarm over new provisions being proposed in the versions of the charter now pending in both houses of Congress.

In a recent memo to the university's chancellors and deans, UP president Emerlinda Roman called for consultations in the UP community on certain issues being raised in the legislature concerning the new charter.

She said it was time the university community reviewed the salient points of the new UP Charter bills being proposed in the House and the Senate.

A new Senate Bill 1655 is now undergoing interpellations in the chamber, which had earlier passed a previous UP Charter bill, Senate Bill 2047.

"During the current round of interpellations, however, and despite other positive suggestions, certain sections have proposed amendments and interposed objections that demand our critical attention," Roman said.

These issues include a proposal from Sen. Sergio Osmeña III to establish an oversight committee to review the UP's financial transactions, particularly relating to the landholdings of the university.

Another is a proposal of Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago to allow siblings of UP alumni to enroll in the university without an entrance examination; to include a provision against the abuse of admission procedures, and to distinguish academic freedom from "administrative procedural due process."

During deliberations on the original UP Charter bill last year, UP officials got a tongue-lashing from lawmakers over the injection of law here into the admission to the UP College of Law. The process and the rejection "emotionally caused him to commit suicide."

Still another proposal from Sen. Manuel Roxas II calls for the removal of the corporate powers of the university.

While the House unanimously passed the previous Charter bill in the last Congress, a working draft of a new House version of the UP Charter bill has just emerged from the House committee on higher and technical education.

Roman said the new House version contained "new and potentially contentious provisions that have not been discussed within the university itself."

These provisions include the substitution of the phrase "premier state university" for "national university" reportedly because a private National University already exists.

The new House version also provides for consultative assemblies which would address administrative and non-academic concerns.

Finally, two versions of the House bill provide for the adoption of measures to enable students and faculty members "to exercise established religious beliefs consistent with the accepted tenets and morals of society."

4 missing fishermen spotted

A SWISS Navy cargo aircraft on Friday spotted the boat carrying four Filipino fishermen who had been missing at sea for 13 days, and a Philippine Navy ship was en route to pick them up, officials said.

The P-3 Orion plane that was dispatched to South China Sea waters near Scarborough Shoal off Palawan, found the fishermen on board their boat 240 nautical miles (324 kms) southwest of Palawan, said Navy spokesperson Capt. Constancio Balatbat Jr.

A navy marine ship is expected to reach the site at about 3 a.m. Sunday, Balatbat said.

The fishermen left the southwestern port of Subic in Zambales province on March 22 and were due to return to Subic on March 25, when they were reported missing.

Navy planes and boats dispatched to the area had failed to spot the missing fishermen, prompting the government to ask for help from the US Pacific Command based in Hawaii.

Balatbat said the skipper of the boat, the M/V Emily, is unrelated radio contact with naval authorities on Tuesday but could not pinpoint their exact location since they had not seen any landmarks for the past five days.

The skipper said his boat was headed to nearby Scarborough Shoal when their boat's engine ran out of fuel. AP

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2010

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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An ear to listen, a voice to counsel

By Fran Kangleon

LIKE RETIREMENT fueled a career.

At 56, Lina looks forward to more days at the Crisis Line office, where she has a job she does not pay a dime and where she is not guilty anymore.

The telephone counselor is one of the volunteers nursing a hotline for people who need a compassionate ear to listen to them.

Crisis Line has been in the country for 20 years. It offers both Filipinos and foreigners access to a telephone counseling.

The nondenominational program encourages callers, who are scared of attempting to talk about a variety of issues like depression, grief and loss, domestic violence, substance abuse, relationship and family problems, rape and sexual assault, school and career difficulties, suicide and stress.

HELP is just a phone call away with Crisis Line which, for 20 years, has provided counseling on issues like depression, grief and loss, domestic violence, substance abuse, relationship and family problems, rape and sexual assault, school and career difficulties, suicide and stress.

Confidential

The nonreaching hotline, which encourages confidentiality, is the primary outreach service of In Touch Community Services Inc. (ITCSI), established in 1960 initially to help the expatriate community in the Philippines handle cross-cultural problems through counseling and support.

Being nongovernmental and nonprofit-oriented, ITCSI relies on fund-raising activities and donations.

The organization also depends mostly on volunteers, locals and foreigners of different cultures, religious affiliations and professional backgrounds.

Prior to joining Crisis Line, Lina was a medical technologist, a professor and an employee in a major government corporation.

She retired in 2000 and used her free time to teach flower arrangement and crafts while taking care of her aging parents.

"I was looking for something to do, something worthwhile," she said.

Driving home one day while listening to the favorite AM station, Lina discovered what she sought. Coordinator Monty Solimán was on the air, talking about Crisis Line and the volunteer opportunities offered.

Training

Lina got in touch with the executive director and underwent training to become a qualified phone counselor.

Training consisted of 15 lectures sessions held 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., twice a week, and 96 hours (or 12 times) of practicum with actual phone calls.

"In [training] man like taking a master degree in psychology," said Lina. "But it came at the right time."

Her father passed away just as the sessions began. What she learned from the sessions helped her cope with the grief and feeling of loss.

"Crisis Line develops counseling skills by using the counselors own life experience and sometimes (and how they dealt with the crisis)," explained Solimán. "That becomes an asset they can use in counseling others."

Lina did not immediately recognize the asset.

Although very interested in volunteer work and willing to complete the extensive training, she was less enthusiastic about the phone calls.

Scared

"I wanted to chicken out," she confessed. "I was scared of getting a call from a suicidal [person] or a rape victim. Having embarrassment."

To guarantee that she wouldn't back out, Lina signed up for volunteer work the week after she completed her training.

A total of 10 calls greeted her on her first day. In a new volunteer, she worked with a more experienced phone counselor. A coordinator stayed with them to supervise the conversations.

"The first caller asked for a Tagalog-speaking counselor," she said. "My partner was a Swiss, so I had no choice but to take it.

"When the call ended, I realized it felt good to have helped [a]fellow someone's load. The experience wasn't intimidating at all."

Since then, Lina has looked forward to each day at Crisis Line, dismissing all the calls were "heavy" or "difficult to end."

"Then I had a caller bothered by so many problems that he wanted to commit suicide," Lina said. "So I asked him, 'How do you plan to do it?'"

He did not plan on how to kill himself, the man replied. Lina said the question caught him by surprise and made him realize he did not want to take his own life.

"Other calls were difficult to end, and the phone reminder. Some people found it difficult to get a sense of closure from just an hour's conversation.

Other callers antagonized her or tested her patience, but she learned not to be affected by them.

"Everything should end when you put the receiver down," said Lina.

"In all my 90 hours of training, I haven't had problem about taking my issues and emotional baggage to work," she said. "I even close the morning shift so that I would be disheartened/down/of problems."

Asked how long she planned to do the volunteer work, the softspoken wife and mother said, "Until I'm unable to walk up the stairs to the office."

Crisis Line's training was educational in developing the right state of mind for phone counselors like Lina.

"We were taught not to be judgmental, and to help callers process their problems," she said. "But a counselor should not give advices."

The caller, she explained, was the only person who knew all the details of his/her problem and was therefore the only one capable of choosing the best option or solution for it.

As for what made an effective counselor, she believed commitment was the most important.

"Volunteers are volunteers," Lina said. "They have help, time, and a part of themselves without expecting anything in return."

Anyone who goes into volunteer work should be motivated by concern for others ... as help others, she said. "It's not for [the] faint-[hearted]. There's help on the other line."

Crisis Line may be reached 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at (02) 7922 or (02) 7920.

Cops arrest 9 suspects in QC antidrug raid

POLICE arrested on Friday night six men and three women caught in an antidrug operation in Quezon City.

The suspects were nabbed while transferring hundreds of bottles of liquid ketamine by a double-cab van to another commuter's double-cab filled to the brim with 91, 89 10-mm. Barangay Holy Spirit.

Seized during the raid were 46 boxes and several containers of liquid ketamine, assorted chemicals used in the manufacture of shabu, a plastic bucket of suspected shabu and various drug paraphernalia.

Authorities identified those arrested as Cesar Valenzuela, 34; Robert Valenzuela, 28; Roy Tequero, 27; Emma Barcelo, 46; Rosalyn Ramos, 36; Lito Ada Cruz, 34; Theresa Dimitis, 28; Claire Buenaventa, 35, and Ma. Ni Hombre, 25, who is pregnant.

SPO1 Reginald Hanawena said a tip-off from operation led to the discovery.

"The operation were in for pursuit of a drug pusher who ran into the house before the drugs were found," Hanawena said.

He said policemen became suspicious of the plain because of a loud noise coming from the house.

Hanawena said the estimated street value of a bottle of liquid ketamine was P1,200.

"Ketamine is an anesthetic drug, but is abused and used in rave parties.

According to the United States Alcohol and Drug Information website, solid ketamine is sometimes sold as Ecstasy.

Senior Inspector Hanawena said they were paid 25 centavos for every small bottle of the drug that they transferred into blue water containers. A box of liquid ketamine contained 600 bottles.

He said one box of them could earn as much as P2,500 a day.

When asked who owned the seized drugs, Inspector said they did not know the 12-year-old building a house where the names were hard to pronounce.

"We just call them boss," he said. Nancy C. Carvajal

Janitor falls off building in Manila

By Tina G. Santos

A 27-YEAR-OLD janitor died after falling off a building in Manila last Friday afternoon.

Teddy Bautista, of Bonifacio Street, Pedro Street Village, Malabon City, died while undergoing treatment at the Ospital ng Maynila due to severe head injuries, police said.

SPO2 Rodrick Claudio de Leon said the incident happened at about 6 p.m. at the Land Bank Plaza at the corner of M.H. Del Pilar and Quintos Streets, Malate.

With a co-worker

Investigators showed that Bautista and co-worker Joel Bolquicle, 19, were on the sixth floor painting lot of the building prior to the incident.

Bolquicle told police that he was chasing Bautista, as they were apparently teasing each other, when the latter stood on the building's edge.

Without any apparent provocation, Bautista allegedly jumped, police said.

Bolquicle said they would be digging deeper into the incident to verify the claim of Bolquicle that Bautista deliberately jumped.

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UPIS BATCH '90

Members of the University of the Philippines Integrated School Batch 1990 recently held its first all-alumni—an adventure race—at the UPIS grounds to mark its Silver Jubilee Celebration and the launch of its "Raising Talents or Talons" fund for gifted children. Several other events are lined up for the year, capped by a grand reunion in December to which all UPIS alumni are invited. More information can be sought from Batch '90 Foundation president Jeny Sonne de Santos at 812-2311 to 14.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddy A. S. Molondres

CHIRS Ohlfaro reacts after making a par on the 1st hole.

3 share Masters lead

AUGUSTA, Georgia—Storm clouds surrounded Augusta National on Friday with the US Masters second round barely starting and Phil Mickelson and Vijay Singh becoming involved in a war of words over spike marks. (Richard story on page A28.)

When play was finally suspended for the day because of the threat of thunderstorms and lightning, British Spider Cup players David Howell and Luke Donald and American Chris Dilfaro held the early lead at five under par 67.

Howell made a late start to round out with five birdies in his first seven holes. He follow Masters debutante Donald had completed two holes and first round leader Mickelson's one.

Defending champion Mickelson, after an opening 73, and world number one Singh, whose 68 was his best start to Augusta National in 11 appearances, were among 15 players in the 93 among Britain's crew still in the second round.

However, the pair had earlier shared a verbal spat when 2000 champion Singh complained to tournament officials that Mickelson's golf shoes had caused spike marks on the 15th green.

Organizers said play would resume at 8:00 AM (2200 GMT) on Saturday with a favorable weekend forecast.

That is the third time in the last four years severed-round play at Augusta National has spilled over into the third day.

Howell, a member of Europe's triumphant Ryder Cup team in Oakland Hills last September, produced red-hot form in somewhat afternoon conditions after completing a level par 72 earlier in the day.

The 29-year-old Englishman worked off birdies on 10,16,first hole, 11, 13, 15 and 16 before play was suspended at 12:48 local time.

Three-time winner Tiger Woods, chasing his first major title since the 2002 US Open, had to settle for a two-over-par 74 after a roller-coaster ride over his last six holes.

Ernie Els scored 75.

Reuters

FedEx, Alaska collide

ANSHEIM) the Aussie ousted each other out, the import match-up will be the key when the Pacific Express take on the Alaska Aces today in the 2005 Coca-Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Pacific mentor Bong Ramos and Alaska head coach Tim Cone shared the same sentiment that Asefaw Miller and Chibuy Simpkins would spell the difference in Gate 4: 15 p.m. clash.

"It will be a battle of imports on [her]," said Ramos after the Express bounced back from a stinging defeat against the Tanduay Giants Kings by dismantling the Tuff 19 Tree Planter Hole the other night.

LAMES CHAT
(Alaska Defeats)
4:15 p.m.—Alaska vs Pacific
(Araneta Coliseum)
Live Coverage
Sun Radyo Star

Meanwhile, Jose Miguel aims to strengthen its hold of the top spot when the Governor meet the Gin Kings on the other match at 5:15 p.m.

The Governors (5-2) secured the sole lead after trouncing the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs in seven of town outfit Thursday.

Sporting a second-running 4-3 slate, the Kings are seeking to dislodge the Governors to keep their winning run going after slipping past the Express and the San Luis Realtors.

Miller, a former Cal Poly-Pomona star in the NBA, came up with his best output in the conference by collecting 30 points and 17 rebounds against the Phone Pals, who are now tied with the Express at 3-3.

Simpkins, who played with Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls in the '90s, was also impressive when he helped the Aces subdue the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs-roundly-crowds ago.

"He (Simpkins) is not as mobile as before but the shoots are still there. He really knows the game and his experience rubs off on the rest of the team," said Cone.

Mike Cortez, Brandon Cables and Jeffrey Cariaso form a potent frontstory in the backcourt that the team hope to exploit against the Express to stick to make a third victory in seven games.

"When Mike came back from the injury list last conference, we won six games in a row. He's a big header. With Mike around, we don't have to extend the action at the point," said Cone.

What the Express need to bottle up Alaska's backcourt trio is another consistent showing from Reuben Boyack and Wesley Gonzales and Rogen Ilag's aggressiveness in defense.

"I hope Wesley becomes consistent. We're starting at straight match up against the Aces and it will be much tougher if these guys fail to do what is expected of them," said Ramos.

The Aces are fresh from a week-long rest.

"The week off helped us. It gave us enough time to focus more on the mechanics of our game and get our motors back," said Cone. *Jane Bautista*

Scoop to fete RP Olympians

BOXERS Anthony Villanueva and Alexander "Dingoh" Alarcon head the illustrious list of former Olympians who will be honored during the Scoop Awards 2005 on Thursday at Banquet A of the Black Pearl Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

Villanueva ended up runner-up in the featherweight division in boxing in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, while Alarcon reached the last in the light-fly class 32 years later in Manila.

They will lead 33 Olympians who'll receive a "Lifetime Achievement Award."

Felipe Muñoz, another boxer, and basketball player Charles Hoefs, the only two survivors of the 1936 Berlin Games, lead those who will be honored [illegible].

Surviving Olympians who have not received their invitations can call Chito Magbuo at 921-2051 or 0[illegible] or 523-1058 or 523-2695.

Welcoat gains lead share

MAKOMOLM's Joel Co and Nevasco's Junmo Tinsmeza fight for the loose ball.

By Jasmine M. Payo

WELCOAT OIL finished a scorching second-half rally to salvage a 72-68 triumph in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

Tactical 8-0 and 6-0 runs by Welcoat delivered a three-point lead for good with 1:09 remaining.

Jay-A Gotching scored 15 of his 19 points beyond the arc to pace Welcoat. Anthony Washington notched 16 points and 12 rebounds after struggling in the first meeting.

"We really have a lot of shooters and anyone can step up in any given time," said coach Gaba Gavina after Welcoat paired Montalbo at the top with its second straight win.

In the second game, Magnolia Ice Cream evened its at 10-10 victory over Nevasco San Beda for its first win in two outings.

"The energy and the enthusiasm are back," said Bread. "The signs are there, this team needs to win," said coach Ray Bread of the Blizzards, who bounced back from their heart-breaking 63-62 loss to Toyota Otis in their opening game.

Reynard Hall Jadunan shot 11 points to lead the Wizards' attack.

Welcoat raced for a 42-29 halftime lead behind Gotching and Washington, but Emerson Dawa opened the third quarter with back-to-back triples to ignite the Toyota comeback.

The Knights first pulled to within four points, 40-44, shaped a 12-3 run to set the deficit by a point, 57-56, and went on to tie it at 64-64 with 5:30 left.

After Magnolia broke the tie with his only fourth-quarter field goal, the Pamanwanis answered her efforts at free throws in the dying seconds.

Magnolia opened the second quarter with a 14-5 outburst that pushed its advantage to 29 points, 32-12, after a shot 13-12 lead in the first period.

Nevasco lost Beda, which dropped its second straight game, shot a meager 26 percent from the field. The other Wizards also entertained the Giants, 56-36.

Scores:

First game:

WELCOAT (72)—Gotching 19, Montalbo 10, Tibay 10, Sarmiento 5, Lao 7, Bocobo 3, Mendoza 6, Co 2, Lazaro 5, Lado 3, Fortes 2, Jamin 2, Alcoseba 2, Washington 16, Dela Cruz 2.

MAKOMOLM (68)—Villareal 10, Pidtong 12, Jacinto 4, Vergara 2, Arnaiz 3, Ramirez 2, Wahl 5, Ramirez 5, Magpoc 2, Cruz 11, Pontanares 2, De Guzman 2, Ong 2, Balbuena, Balbuena 10, Co 4, Co 22, De Ocampo 10, Cruz.

Quarterscores: 12-12, 42-29, 57-56, 72-68.

Second game:

MAGNOLIA ICE CREAM (63)—Antonio 11, Mendoza 10, Tibay 10, Sarmiento 5, Lao 7, Bocobo 3, Mendoza 6, Co 2, Lazaro 5, Lado 3, Fortes 2, Jamin 2, Alcoseba 2, Washington 16, Dela Cruz 2.

NEVASCO (56)—Villareal 10, Pidtong 12, Jacinto 4, Vergara 2, Arnaiz 3, Ramirez 2, Wahl 5, Ramirez 5, Magpoc 2, Cruz 11, Pontanares 2, De Guzman 2, Ong 2, Balbuena, Balbuena 10, Co 4, Co 22, De Ocampo 10, Cruz.

Quarterscores: 10-12, 42-29, 56-36, 63-62.

Django strikes in Bali, bags ₱68M

FILIPINO pool wizard Francisco "Django" Bustamante downed Mika "Kamikiri" Immonen of Finland, 11-10, in the finals to win the 8-Ball International Open last Friday at Bali Nusa Dua Beach Hotel and Villas Center in Bali, Indonesia.

The victory was worth $112,000 (about P6M,000) for the Taytay native. He also bagged $10,000 for winning the Nine-Ball International Open last February at the LDG Studio 13. He beat reigning World Champion "The Lion" Dagenhart 13-10, in the finals and received $9,000 in the event organized by Joseph TV president Mon Rocco and Pool Spain boss Antonio G. Pascual.

Bustamante also pocketed $6,000 for topping the Mixed Doubles with Bali Dang Cuong Luan Jaruratty. Marilou Bartsaridou, Geerthaler

Bustamante showed no compassion to "Baby" Jessie and Lee Van Corona.

It was Bustamante's second major triumph in the region after his topping the Open #1 $40,000 All Philippine Billiards Open last February at the LDG Studio 13. He beat reigning World Champion "The Lion" Dagenhart 13-10, in the finals and received $9,000 in the event organized by Joseph TV president Mon Rocco and Pool Spain boss Antonio G. Pascual.

Bustamante also pocketed $6,000 for topping the Mixed Doubles with Bali Dang Cuong Luan Jaruratty. Marilou Bartsaridou, Geerthaler

Labajo up by 4 shots

CALAMBA, Laguna—Alann Labajo shot a one-under par 71 yesterday to take a four-stroke lead after 18 holes of the Ice Calamba Asia-Pacific Open here. A product of the National Caddies' Open program, the 18-year-old Manila mestizo in times of 36-35 to beat veteran Abe Royal and younger brother Joseph, who both joined in The with one round left.

Wheelchair can't confine Markelein's fighting heart

MARKELEIN (right) gives Filipino wheelchair racer Judy Wilcox tips in proper rounding and movement.

SEBOL Markelein knows how it feels to have a competitive spirit confined in a fallen contraption.

The six-time gold medalist in the Seoul Paralympics, who lost movement in his lower limbs after a car accident 20 years ago, took up sports as part of his rehabilitation. He found that the wheelchair he used was too big and heavy for his standards.

And this posed a problem.

"The wheelchair is the orthopedically-disabled is like the feet of an able-bodied person," said the Guyanese, who the European Wheelchair Association (EWA) in 1979. "I don't like to use it. Without the wheelchair, we become immobile."

This gave birth to the Sopour Wheelchair manufacturing in 1979. Since then, the 49-year-old Markelein has dedicated himself to developing the perfect racing wheelchair—one and machine, an undertaking that led to his winning six gold medals in the 1988 Seoul Paralympics.

Markelein's talent for endurance sports, mental strength and commitment earned for him the one-trial ride in the Open European Championship category B (paraplegic) events.

He also competed last week in Greece's three-on-three basketball wheelchair All Court 3 to the Philippine Sports Association for the Differently Abled (Philpsada). He also mentioned clinics for the 9th Philippine Wheelchair Basketball League and the Philippine ASEAN Paragames all-Star team. A track expert forced Markelein to train for these competitions, but he made no comeback and went to the 2004 New York Marathon.

Markelein is now vice president for advanced Singapore at Sopour Medical. He visit was arranged by EMM Ramirez for president and Philpsada secretary general Emmanuel Pinanos in cooperation with Philippine Paraguayan Organizing Committee president Michael Barrado and Philpsada/SBC Lone Apollonio.

Lhuillier halts Jets' streak

SILVERSTAT Aston Gamez contributed 10 points to Lhuillier blasted Pete Mayor and series TV host Angie Wheeler's Pantaleon Jets, 13-9-88, Friday night to remain unbeaten in the Spring Cooking Oil-NBC final north pre-season basketball series at the UE gym in Cat Pilon.

Former PBA executive Gen. Ben Villamin scored 23 points to power the Jesse Heart Distillers-backed Nationals in their third straight victory while halting the Jets three-game winning run.

Despite Oil loss, the Jets still managed to send a duo to PBA forward Jeoffrey for the title as it is on today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Gaffiel, Barrier Vice Mayor Edwin Muñoz's Cavite Sinners turned Jack Laguna Spring, 88-74, to arrange a meeting with Mayor Freddie Tiu's Powerall Taguig for third place in the MMP sanctioned series at 12 p.m. today.

"They played a very disciplined game," said coach Bernie Cortes of the Nationals, who are preparing for the 2005 SEAG series in Manila late this year.

High-flying veteran Jhiber Ortiz from and Jeffrey Bordizo also sparkled for RP-Citimotor Dealer with 20 and 17 points, respectively.

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NBC president Nathaniel "Nic" Padilla (3rd from left) and Panasonic-Philippines president Rodolfo Perez seal their deal with a handshake. From left are Dan Moreno, Panasonic project director; Panasonic marketing communications head Gabriel Garcia; Panasonic factory sales department head Joey de Jesus and NBC sales director Jacob Cipriano Dale.

NBC nat'l tourney gets boost

MANDAUE—The National Basketball Conference for the staging of NBC's national championship starting on April 23 at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Rolando Pichi, president Rodolfo Perez signed the summit with NBC head Nathaniel "Nic" Padilla and secretary general Tito Palma, marking the grand elimination scheme for the sponsors for the 2005 NBC tournament last Friday at Harbour Park Hotel.

"As a company, we have our social responsibilities and we feel that our partnership with NBC is our way of contributing to sports development," said Perez, who was accompanied by two other officials, conducting announcements head Dan Moreno and finance sales manager Joey de Jesus. "Through NBC's region-based teams, we hope to tap new talents and, at the same time, get the youth involved in sports."

Panasonic-Phils. will also be the title sponsor of an invitational event to be staged by the NBC commissioners' office in regular season. The inaugural season will compete in the series together with RP-Citimotor Dealer and teams from Davao, Iligan and Bacolod. Harbour Park Hotel rules and marketing director Mary Jean Bernice Cordova also signed a contract with NBC, sealing the hotel's partnership with the regional league.

LONG THE PRIVATE SECRETARY Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz (above) places a white silk veil over the Pope's face assisted by the master of the liturgical ceremonies, Archbishop Piero Marini, before the unadorned cypress coffin was sealed. A brief history of his life and coins minted during his papacy were also placed next to his body. The richly coffin made of walnut (below) is lowered into the crypt below St. Peter's Basilica to join the remains of popes from centuries past near the tomb of the first pope, the apostle Peter. Zinc (above right) encloses the first coffin made of cypress. On it are the symbol of the papacy and a plaque containing his name and the date of his death. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE AND REUTERS

Italians want papacy back

From page A1

conspiracy in the Church to hide doctrinally controversial teachings about Jesus Christ.

But the field is wide open, Vatican observers say.

"It is all up to the Holy Spirit," said Imoda.

Several non-Italians have been mentioned, such as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, who was seen by millions around the world as the principal celebrant of the funeral Mass for John Paul II.

Traditional direction

Ratzinger, if elected, will provide continuity to the largely traditional doctrinal direction enunciated by John Paul II during his long reign, observers said.

Other possible non-Italian contenders are Cardinal Francis Arinze of Nigeria, Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez of Honduras, Cardinal Claudio Hummes of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Austria.

The only Filipino cardinal who will take part in the conclave, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Vidal, is low-key and relatively unknown when compared to the others in the carefully but netted Cardinal Icarus list.

The ailing former Manila archbishop can still vote for and can even become pope but this is too rich to join the conclave.

The next pope has to "open more spaces for women and for the local churches," he observes. "Women have to become 'full citizens' of the Church and not remain anchored by so-called 'feminine' qualities, which basically translate to subordination to male dominance."

'Browning of the faith'

Both Bacani and Fr. Jose de Mesa, author and lay professor of applied systematic theology at De La Salle University-Manila, have recommendations, or "the browning of the faith," high on their papal agendas.

"Inculturation implies the local community of believers—laity, religious and clerics, all equal in dignity and responsibility—together taking a pro-active stance in devising ways and means to ensure the impact of the Gospel on the local-while-cognizant of the global-context," De Mesa says.

In concrete terms, this means using the wisdom and genius of local cultures, deciding how mercury is to be carried out and by whom, and how local liturgy is to be celebrated, encouraging participation, and devising pastoral approaches and solutions.

The Jesus ethos

"How can people be Christian, in the sense of being followers of Jesus, if there is no solidarity with the refugee, the abuse or abusive in the gospels?" says Fr. Amado Vergara of the Religious of the Sacred Heart.

Vergara studied comparative religion and the history of Christianity at Harvard Divinity and is involved in the training of nuns and seminarians of the Philippines and Asia.

"It is a commandment-cum for the next pope to have to hope ahead because the billions of Catholics around the globe are not even aware of the basic ethical-cum provided by the scriptures for the life of the Church," Vergara says.

She says the task of any pope is "to help the community be more and more conformed to the model of Jesus of Nazareth through the inspiration of the Spirit."

"In Jesus was, we should the Church be," Vergara says. "I would like to see (the next pope) taking bold moves to acquire governance of the Church that, in structures and actual practices, is transparent and genuinely participative, humble, less ambiguous in its solidarity with the poor, and accepting of the equal dignity of all within the Church, because we are equal in worth as children of God."

This, Vergara adds, already exists in many small communities in Philippine and Asian churches. She hopes that it becomes the norm everywhere and at all levels.

Below the equator

Arevalo also takes up this issue.

"The most important role of the pope today has to do with relationship, for the world as are, the Good News that is Jesus and the Gospel of Jesus. The pope has to resolutely Jesus in today's world, especially in the developing world below the equator. He must tell the world of God's love, because there is hope for the human family and hope for each and all of us," Arevalo says.

He wishes for the new pope "to, above all, have a time and setting love for the poor and the young, with a view Third World ministry."

He adds: "Communion has been fixed alliances." Cardinal Karl Lehmann, chair of the German Catholic bishops conference, told the Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz in an interview on Saturday.

"We will have to move towards a consensus through agreements, contacts and talks," he said.

"The cardinals have met before the conclave to get to know each other better. We shouldn't forget that the large number of electors, about half of whom have only been appointed since 2001, makes this especially necessary," he said.

The more than 100 cardinals due to elect a new pope will have the opportunity over the coming week to swap views on possible candidates before they formally meet in a closed session beginning on April 18.

"First of all, we need a credible, convinced and convincing successor to Saint Peter who will also be rooted against John Paul II," said Lehmann, who will be taking part in the conclave.

Political problems

"But not in the sense of scope, like color, origin and certain other issues that have been mentioned will be of very little importance in this," he said.

Lehmann said the next pope would face political problems in China and Africa as well as the challenge of the erosion of belief in traditional Catholic heartlands such as Spain, Ireland and Latin America.

But he said that the emotional extremes of the church would not be his main priority.

"There should be no false dilemma from the 'enduring' center of faith to its mission for every Christian. The last few days have shown what is important," he said.

"Believe may still be necessary but they are only for setting the framework, but they may be just contributory." With a report from Reuters

Wanted: Mystic pope who can turn on the young

From page A1

Blackfriar Fr. Helen Graham, who has taught theology for more than 30 years and who edited the text of the Mission Statement, describes John Paul II's deeds as "undeniably great."

But she explains why she wants more from the next pope: "As a woman trained in theology and scripture who lived through the ambivalence of Vatican II, I have experienced John Paul II's pontificate as one that moved away from the gains of that council in many ways.

"I have been saddened by the unwillingness to use inclusive language in the liturgy, the opposition to even discussing the issue of women's ordination, the stifling of imaginative theological thinking, and the inability to make any change whatsoever in reproductive issues that profoundly affect the lives of women."

Continuity, discontinuity

"The next pope will have to bring about continuity and discontinuity," says Fr. Percy Bacani of the Missionaries of Jesus, who teaches theology and is a much sought-after retreat director.

"Continuity means pursuing the social agenda, especially John Paul II's call to solidarity with the poor and marginalized, fighting together with them to create a more just and caring society," he says, adding:

"It also means pursuing the imperative of interreligious dialogue. This is urgent in the context of pluralism, or recognition of multicultural and religious differences and the common quest for true and full living. The present form of globalization is anti-poor and anti-(I will)."

Discontinuity means "visioning a different path-in other core issues facing the Church," Bacani says.

The next pope has to "open more spaces for women and for the local churches," he observes. "Women have to become 'full citizens' of the Church and not remain anchored by so-called 'feminine' qualities, which basically translate to subordination to male dominance."

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Casco

KASHMIR woman looks out from their window at a family from Pakistan-administered Kashmir arriving in Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian-administered Kashmir, April 8, after taking a bus from Muzaffarabad. REUTERS

Marburg virus in Angola worse than Ebola, says UN

LUANDA—The outbreak of the deadly Marburg virus in Angola is worse than Ebola, a UN disease expert said Friday, as the world body launched an urgent appeal for funds to fight the fever which has claimed 100 lives.

"Marburg is even [as] horrendous [as] Ebola, even worse than Ebola," said Allaranger Yokouba from the UN Field Health Organization (WHO).

"We have had several Ebola epidemics in the region but none with such a high mortality rate," he told reporters at a press conference in Luanda.

In Geneva, the WHO said the world's worst-ever outbreak of the virus was not yet under control.

Mike Ryan, head of the WHO's emergency response and international agencies and local health authorities were remain closely engaged in Angola for the next four to six weeks, adding that the situation "now in Angola is not under control yet." The world body on Friday launched an emergency appeal for 3.5 million dollars (2.7 million euros) to "intensify the fight" against the outbreak which "was the largest ever recorded and still growing." The appeal for 3.5 million dollars will enable UN agencies, including the WHO, UNICEF and the WFP to support the Angolan government in handling outbreak control efforts," said the UN's resident coordinator in Angola, Pedro Francois Pérez.

"It is clear that this epidemic is unprecedented not only in Angola, but everywhere, it is the biggest epidemic of hemorrhagic fever so far," he said.

Most of the victims come from the northern town of Uige, the epicentre of the outbreak some 300 kilometres (180 miles) north of the seaboard capital Luanda. Some 200 cases had been reported since it first surfaced in October.

"The victims included nine health workers, seven nurses and two doctors," said Angolan vice health minister Jose Van Dunem.

Pani has gripped the capital and the country of 14 million people, which emerged three years ago from a brutal 27 year civil war.

The Ebola-like Marburg virus, whose exact origin is unknown, spreads through contact with bodily fluids such as blood, excrement, vomit and saliva, but can be contained with relatively simple health precautions, according to experts.

Yokouba told reporters that the disease "was transmitted through contact with all bodily fluids which also included sweat and tears if you touch a sick person," but he stressed that it was "not an airborne disease." He said the worst-ever outbreak of Ebola, in the same fatally as Marburg, was in Uganda where some 404 cases were reported at the end of the outbreak.

"We had several epidemics of Ebola in the region but none of which had such a high mortality rate," said Yokouba. "It's worse than for example in Uganda." There was another Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with "only 144 cases" and another in Gabon, with 300 cases. AFP

Shiites march to protest US presence in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Thousands of followers of rebel Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr marched in Baghdad on Saturday to denounce the US presence in Iraq and demand a speedy end of Saddam Hussein on the second anniversary of his downfall.

Chanting "No, no to the occupiers," several thousand men streamed from the poor Shiite district of Sadr City to Firdos Square in central Baghdad where Saddam's statue was toppled two years ago in a powerful show of strength.

The square and side streets were quickly packed with crowds waving Iraqi flags and brandishing effigies of Saddam, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and US President George W. Bush. "No American No Saddam! Yes to Islam!" many chanted. One group of demonstrators burned an American flag.

Iraqi security forces shut down central Baghdad ahead of the march and were searching pedestrians closely. US forces were keeping a distance. Most of the protesters were searched by police for weapons before reaching the square.

"I came from Sadr City to demand a timetable for the withdrawal of the occupation," said Ghalan, a young, bearded protester sitting on the grass in the square. "Every Iraqi has a right to defend his freedom. The Americans wanted Iraq and we gave them time, now we want to rule ourselves." Ismir Shahlan, many of whom also strongly oppose US forces, were reported to join the demonstration. On Shahlan Christ Association, an influential Iraqi body, said dissent

Kashmiris hope historic bus service takes road to peace

SRINAGAR, India—Kashmiris hailed on Friday a historic bus service between Indian and Pakistani Kashmir as a concrete step towards resolving the vexed territorial dispute and said militant separatists should not be allowed to disrupt it.

Analysts praised India and Pakistan for what they said was the determination of the two governments to go ahead with the bus service on Thursday, the first in nearly 60 years, despite threats from militants.

But they said New Delhi and Islamabad—who have fought two wars over Kashmir—still had a long way to go to settle the Kashmir issue, as they had yet to show much inclination to move from entrenched diplomatic positions despite the hype and celebrations over the transport link.

"I was crying with joy when I saw television pictures of the bus crossing over to this side," Pakistan Caroline, 23, a sociology student at a university in Srinagar, the main city of Indian Kashmir, said. "Kashmiris have seen half of the battle." "Now, it is the decency of the two countries that will make a difference to the future of Kashmir. I wish this bus very daily," she said, a day after the first fortnightly service rolled into Srinagar from across a military controlled line.

Nineteen Indian Kashmiris, mostly elderly, on Thursday defied separatist threats and crossed a "Peace Bridge" across a military line that divided them for more than half a century, hours after 24 Pakistanis walked into the Indian side for an emotional reunion with relatives.

Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistani Kashmir, erupted into spontaneous celebrations as the first passengers broke down, with joy over seeing their dear ones, many of them for the first time.

"It is a great step towards peace," said Aftab Hamid Bhat, a businessman in Srinagar. "Kashmir is a more than 56-year problem and change will not change overnight. Some elements will oppose it for their vested interests but let's go ahead." Newspapers in India and Pakistan were also upbeat.

"The determination shown by India and Pakistan to go ahead with the bus service in the face of terrorism is praiseworthy," Pakistani daily The News said in an editorial on Friday.

"It will send an unambiguous message to the shadowy groups that there will be no bowing to terrorism."

A day before the service was launched, militants fighting against Indian rule in the ski-resort region staged a suicide attack on a heavily guarded government complex sheltering the Indian passengers, torching the building.

None of the passengers were injured but five police[illegible] subsequently.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the bus had opened a door and it was the beginning of a new phase for Kashmir.

Singh, who flagged off the bus, is due to hold talks with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf in New Delhi this month to boost a shaky peace process between the neighbors. Reuters

Princess Caroline's hubby remains in intensive care

MONACO—The husband of Princess Caroline of Monaco, Prince Ernst August of Hanover, on Saturday remained in intensive care in a Monaco hospital suffering from an inflamed pancreas, even as the royal state prepared to bury his father-in-law Prince Rainier.

"He is still in intensive care in the Princess Grace hospital. There has been no change since yesterday," a member of his entourage said.

The German prince, 51, was rushed into hospital with acute pancreatitis early Tuesday, the day before Rainier's death.

Ernst August is Princess Caroline's third husband. They married in 1999 and have a daughter, Alexandra.

Monaco went into mourning on Wednesday after the death of Prince Rainier, 81, who ruled the tiny Mediterranean principality for more than 55 years. His funeral is set for next Friday.

For Caroline, her husband's hospitalization while she mourns for her father has become part of the life of drama and death she has endured. Her mother Princess Grace, the American movie star, and her second husband, Italian industrialist Stefano Casiraghi, were both victims of fatal accidents. AFP

350 armed militiamen destroy Darfur village in new atrocity

UNITED NATIONS—More than 350 militiamen destroyed a village in Sudan's conflict-wracked Darfur region in the worst attack since January, the United Nations and the African Union said.

A joint statement issued Friday by the top UN envoy in Sudan, Jan Pronk, and the top AU envoy, Baba Gana Kingibe said the names of the militia leader and his known collaborators will be turned over for possible UN sanctions and prosecution by the International Criminal Court.

The two organizations requested "utter shock and disbelief" at Thursday's deadly attack on the South Darfur village of Khor Abeche by armed militias from the Misseriya tribe of Rizeigat under the command of Juan Al Tijani Adel Kandil.

Last Thursday, the Security Council also voted to refer cases of alleged rape, murder, village burnings and other atrocities to the International Criminal Court, the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal. On Tuesday the UN handed prosecutors from the tribunal thousands of documents and a sealed list of 51 people to be investigated for alleged war crimes in Darfur.

Al Tijani is the first Sudanese publicly identified as a possible war crimes suspect.

According to the statement, more than 100 of Al Tijani's militiamen, mobilized by 700 additional fighters from Misseriya, "rampaged through the village killing, burning and destroying everything in their paths and leaving in their wake total devastation with only the mosque and the school spared."

The statement did not give any casualty figures but said the attack was the most savage since the outbreak of the South Darfur village of Hamada in January which killed about 100 people.

It was not clear why the motive for the alleged theft of 150 cattle whose owners were supposedly treated to Khor Abeche.

The UN and the AU condemned the "relentless and unprovoked savage attack" and said the destruction of Khor Abeche not only violated ceasefire agreements but formerly Council resolutions calling for an end to fighting and demanding that the perpetrators of such attacks no longer enjoy impunity and are brought to justice.

The war-torn western Sudanese region of Darfur is the scene of one of the world's most humanitarian crises, to estimated 180,000 people have died in the upheaval—many from hunger and disease—and about 2 million others have been displaced since the conflict began in February 2003.

It erupted when rebels took up arms against what they saw as years of state neglect and discrimination against Sudanese of African origin. The government is accused of responding with a counter-insurgency campaign in which the Arab Janjaweed militia committed indiscriminate abuses against the African population.

The AU has 3,000 soldiers and observers in Darfur monitoring a ceasefire which has been repeatedly broken. AP

STRANGELY POPULAR WITH TOURISTS
More than 8,000 human skulls lay in a shrine at the Choeung Ek Killing Fields Genocidal Museum on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The site, which is popular with tourists, has more than 86 mass graves that are yet to be opened. Under the rule of the Khmer Rouge led by Pol Pot...more than 1.7 million Cambodians were murdered, starved or worked to death. AP

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China protesters attack Japan embassy in Beijing

BEIJING—Thousands of Chinese smashed windows and threw rocks at the Japanese embassy and consulate's residence in Beijing on Saturday in a protest against Japan's wartime past and bid for a seat on the UN Security Council.

Protesters pushed their way through a paramilitary police cordon to the gates of the residence of the Japanese ambassador, throwing rocks and water bottles and shouting "Japanese pig come out!" Some 500 paramilitary police holding plastic shields raced into the compound and hit crowds of the gates, a Reuters witness said. Protesters threw stones and bricks at the residence, and shouted at police, "Japanese people shouldn't protect Japanese." Demonstrators, who said they had been organized mostly through e-mail and internet messaging, had been marching peacefully under heavy police guard at various places in the capital. One group began throwing bottles and stones when they passed a Japanese restaurant, smashing windows with rifles they had ripped from an roof before police stopped them.

Protesters also attacked a bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi branch and smashed windows before police moved in.

Another group outside the embassy in southeast Beijing threw stones and plastic water bottles, smashing windows in the compound, a Reuters photographer said. Some demonstrators scaled the wall to get in.

But by late afternoon most of the crowd at the embassy had dispersed, persuaded by police to board waiting buses to take them home.

Anti-Japanese sentiment has been running high in China since Japan on Tuesday approved a school textbook critics say whitewashes atrocities committed during World No. II, and many Chinese feel the country has not owned up to its wartime aggression.

Reuters

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Jacko fondled Macaulay Culkin, chef says

SANTA BARBARA, California, April 9—Michael Jackson's former chef testified Friday that he saw the pop icon fondle then-child movie star Macaulay Culkin, with his hand inside the boy's shorts.

The bombshell account from French chef Philip Leotaurjeau capped a week of lurid testimony, including from an alleged child sex victim and from former employees who claim they caught the superstar in compromising positions with young boys.

Leotaurjeau told jurors he was shocked to see Jackson fondling "Home Alone" star Culkin, who was then 10 or 11, when he brought them French fries in the video game arcade of the fantasy-themed resort in California in 1993.

"Michael was playing with Macaulay Culkin at one of the games," he said, explaining that the singer was holding up the young actor, who was too short to reach the controls.

"His left hand was inside the pants of the kid," he said. "It was in the trouser area," the chef said as Jackson looked on impassively from the defendant's table in the Santa Maria, California court.

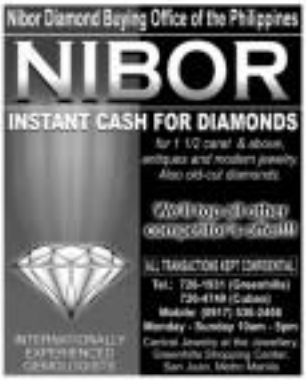
"I was shocked, I almost dropped the French fries," he said.

Culkin, now 24, has denied he was ever abused by Jackson and has said he has no recollection of testifying against him at the trial.

Jackson is on trial for allegedly molesting a 13-year-old cancer survivor at Neverland in early 2003, but jurors have heard of five earlier child sex allegations against the star, which prosecutors claim demonstrate a pattern of behavior.

Prosecutors claim that one of those victims was Culkin, despite the young actor's denial that there was any inappropriate conduct by Jackson.

AFP



Spikes trigger Phil-Vijay confrontation

OH A day when players like Rafael Gomez (top) could only look to the heavens and hope for better weather, much of the action took place in the locker room, where Phil Mickelson (opposite photo) and Vijay Singh engaged in a verbal joust.

AUGUSTA, Georgia—Vijay Singh didn't like following in Phil Mickelson's footsteps at the Masters on Friday.

It complained about spike marks left in a cement area in the locker room between the two Masters champions after Singh told tales officials that the metal cleats in Mickelson's shoes were too long.

Mickelson had to step on the 18th fairway and shoot an official the bottom of his shoe to be heard. Singh's talk-to-me-dog about his spikes during the rain delay, he decided to confront him.

"He exposed his concern. I expressed my disappointment with the way it was handled," Mickelson said in a statement. "I believe everything is fine now."

Singh played in the group behind the defending Masters champion.

They teamed the first round on the par-3 12th, the same hole as Augusta. Mickelson hit his tee shot into T. E and made birdie, going to 2 under par. Singh hit his tee shot to about 10 ft on the same line and two-putted for par.

Mickelson offered an apology, but was angry about the timing of being stopped by two officials on one hole.

"They were sent by Vijay to check my spikes because he felt they were unduly damaging the greens," Mickelson said. "If that's the case, I am very apologetic and will make every effort to keep them from spike marks. I may make it in the future. However, I was extremely distracted and would have appreciated if it would have been handled differently."

Mickelson said more than one-third of the field is using metal spikes, especially because of the wet conditions.

Singh contacted a rules official while putting on the 12th green.

"He said on the 12th hole this summer in the group in front were making the green with his shoes," said Steve Stricker, a 10-PGA Tour rules official working the Masters. "When he looked at where the mark was going, he figured out it was Phil."

Mickelson: "In his note about cleats, he left side of the 12th fairway and a rules official spot. Into all the ten. Mickelson showed him his soles, not then the other. The official nodded, and left) kept walking.

Stricker said another official on the 18th green noticed Mickelson had two prints, and found them unacceptable.

But the debate apparently didn't end there.

Mickelson and Singh, the 2000 Masters winners, were in the champions locker room during the rain delay when they had it out.

"After sitting in the locker (room) for a while, I heard Vijay talking to other players about it and I confronted him," Mickelson said. AP

PHIL Mickelson's round ended with a controversial encounter with Vijay Singh after he was stopped by officials to check his shoes.

TM tilt shifts to Pasig

PRE-QUALIFYING tournaments for the PBA 9-ball Championship League get even bigger when the event shifts to four venues in Pasig today.

Congressman Dodot Jaworski heads the slate for the young have who would succeed Boss Reyes and Quiogue Eleazar.

Jaworski will be personally on hand to supervise the event scattered around the city with games set at the covered courts of Brgy. Bambang-Damayan, Ilaniban, 152 and Caniogan.

Registration starts at 10 a.m. and games will be played until 6 p.m.

The four finalists from each venue will proceed to the Upang Covered Courts, where a finals triple-parley at 5 p.m. precedes the championship.

Cash prizes totaling P222,000 will also be given away.

Since last week, Jaworski has visited Holland Indio in Pasay to invite everyone to join the competition and support the league.

Dancers, entertainers and a 3-piece band will entertain guests at the Upang Covered courts. Parlor games, sponsored by Smart Mobile, will also be held for the spectators and non-billiard players.

The Pasig qualifying is the second in the series of events lined up by Barkistan Inc. of Ramon Tuason, who organized the TM 9-Ball Championship League, which is hosted by Tanduay Mobile and Rexel.

The first qualifying was held in Urdaneta, Pangasinan, on Friday and participated in by close to a hundred-star artists who sought to make the grade and qualify for the P1-million one-ball prize.

Aside from Jaworski and Uy-punggay, other personalities acting as team managers for their respective cities and provinces are singer Ayp Tiburcio for Pasig; Nanda Pastor for Malate; basketball aguy Sam Uanis and Bambanjer ten mayor Ayp Tiburcio for Pandacan; Manila Sports Council Chairman Chuti Arnaiz for Sampaloc; Manila Councilor Lenny "Sprong" Abalos for Quiapo.

The event will be telecast over IBC-13 starting April 26 and every Thursday and Friday thereafter. Telecast time is at 9:30-10:30 p.m.

76ers sweep Cavs

Lakers end slide; Kings tab playoff slot

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson had 23 points and a career-high 16 assists to help the 76ers sweep the season series against Cleveland with a 103-98 victory Friday night and keeping the Cavaliers into seventh place in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Samuel Dalembert had 22 points and 16 rebounds, and Kyle Korver scored 20 points for the 76ers, Chris Webber missed his fourth straight game with a sprained left shoulder.

Iverson sprained both his thumbs against the Cavaliers and said it affected his shot all game. It was hard to tell when Iverson hit a jumper with 8.3 seconds left when gave the 76ers a needed cushion.

"As soon as it left my hand, I knew it was good," said Iverson, who shot 9-for-28. "Even with my hand hurting the way it was, I tried to let it go and not think about the pain."

Lebron James scored 37 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for the Cavaliers and Drew Gooden added 26 points and 12 rebounds.

"We're still in the playoffs right now, so we just have to keep fighting," James said.

The fading Cavs have lost three straight and five of six, and the loss are 1 1/2 games back of the eighth seed in the East.

In other games, Toronto clipped Atlanta in overtime, 106-104; Detroit trampled Orlando, 114-102; Minnesota topped Seattle, 97-91; Utah whipped New Orleans, 98-87 while Chicago mauled New York, 102-94.

Also, Indiana crushed Washington, 93-83; Milwaukee routed Charlotte, 93-75; Denver topped Memphis, 107-104; Sacramento edged Portland, 119-115; Golden State surprised Phoenix, 127-119 and the Los Angeles Lakers crushed Boston, 117-94.

In Portland, Oregon, Rip Sasjakovic had 35 points and the Sacramento Kings beat the Trail Blazers to clinch its seventh straight playoff berth.

Mike Bibby added 19 points and 11 assists for the Kings, who controlled their own destiny after Minnesota lost to Denver earlier.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim had 23 points and 11 rebounds and Darius Miles recorded 17 after missing three games in a row 25 points for the Blazers.

In Seattle, Jason Terry scored 40 points and Carlos Boozer matched a season high with 31 for the Los Angeles Lakers, who beat the Supersonics for just their second win in 13 games.

Bryant drowned no effects of the bruised right shin that forced him to miss a game earlier this week. With his lower leg brace, he wrapped, he shot 13-for-22 from the floor, while adding four a 6-for-19 effort in Thursday's loss to Houston.

Ray Allen scored 30 points for Seattle while Nick Collison had 14 points and 11 rebounds.

In Orlando, Florida, Tayshaun Prince scored 26 points, Chauncey Billups added 23 as the Detroit Pistons beat the Orlando Magic. AP

THE OTHER KG! Philadelphia 76ers, Andre Iguodala, scores on this layup for a slam dunk. AP PHOTO

NBA in 'Solar'

ALLEN Iverson and the Philadelphia 76ers storm the Washington Wizards at noon today in the NBA Solar Sports after the 9:30 a.m. clash between the Dallas Mavericks and the Utah Jazz. In 1996-97, it will be Stacy McKitrick and the Houston Rockets opposite the league leading Phoenix Suns at 1:54 p.m.

Coseteng ready for battle

BEING three all on.

Multi-titled Judy Coseteng of the Speedmen Racing Team is ready for another three-peat when the 2005 Philippine National Touring Car Championships starts on Sunday at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Cosetenng, undoubtedly one of the greatest female drivers in local racing, will again show the stuffs of legends should the Honda Civic in the premier S1 owner of FMTCC, sits of for amazing strength last season.

The five-time Driver of the Year will again be a marked man but with the all-out support of the Speedmen Racing Team and the world-class potency of Honda's hills synthetic oil, Coseteng might just snare his ninth Driver of the Year plum from among a host of contenders in his crown.

"Every year, it gets harder and harder," said Coseteng, who is backed by strong sponsors Unilever Hyundai and Sun Miguel Beer. "We have world-class drivers competing and improving here every year. Everyone will be after my scalp. But my experience and passion for excellence will serve me well in the long run."

Whatever the outcome of this season's BRC finale, Coseteng's place in history is assured.

A three-time awardee of the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA), Coseteng missed last year's first two rounds and had a DNF idled out finish in Round 3 but still ran away with the owner-driver 98 championship to underscore her dominance in the record-

COSETENG

THE u23 Ilocos-bos Pontifical Club is currently leading Pumas on its, which is hoping to rejuvenate the country football scene in the country.

89th Open at Mt. Malarayat

IT FEELS good to see a lot of people throwing their support behind the 89th Philippine Open, unanimously that is.

They were there on Friday, April 8, many of them coming their socks limits a packed hall trying to catch a glimpse of the event signing (appearing Mr. Malarayat in Lipa City, Batangas, on venue of the Open—a first in Batangas.

People from Villamor, like Tito Bautista and Blas Jimez, motored in Lipa City just to witness the proceedings.

Philippine golf legends Eduardo and Orlan featured rock stars out to join the occasion together with some budding amateurs led by Elito Pastor.

Here the famous homemade course Eduardo Espares was there, extending support "for whatever we can from."

"The Tournament is really a greater person not only of golf but almost all sports in the country," said Benny Tapia, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP).

Benny signed on behalf of the NGAP the MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) and Architect Antonio "Manong Tony" Tantoco, chair and president of Mt. Malarayat, officially appointing Mt. Malarayat venue of the 89th PI Open on May 19-22.

"It is with great honor and pride that, finally, out Mt. Malarayat golf club was given the chance to host the Open, unquestionably the No. 1 golf tournament in the country," said Manong Tony.

Applause after applause filled the air during the momentous occasion capped by a resounding, at times heavy if not rumbling, speech by former President Fidel V. Ramos.

"Good morning, ladies," said Mr. Ramos, his opening line immediately eliciting laughter. "Don't get me wrong. Some here deserve 'sons of Batangas.' I am, as adopted! (till myself) 'son of the last Spanish (governor-in-chief)."

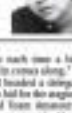
He followed that up with, "There are two kinds of spectators: Silent and loud. The short one is, 'Thank you' and the long one is, 'Thank you very much.'"

PVB has not lost his wit one bit, nor to mention his gift and sturdy demeanor even on years after he had left the Palace as our president from 1992 to 1998.

In his talk, Benny G said PVB wanted to

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



be always "on my side each time a big event that I am involved in comes along."

And Benny G. was right. When I headed a delegation in 1996 to France to bid for the staging here of the 1996 World Team tournament, the President (PVB) was on my side. Most very aside, I was the bid despite owners, done odds. As president now of FIGAP, the President is on my side again, as he is now the Patron of the Asian Tour no less. With him on my side anew, how can the 89th Philippine Open go wrong?

Admiral Lamberto P. Fernandez, in his capacity as chair of the Open organizing committee, has done a commendable job here, as self by appointing PVB chair of the Board of Advisers to include retired Cabinet men, executive secretary Eduardo R. Ermita and DOTC chief Leandro R. Mendoza.

After sampling Mt. Malarayat in the morning, PVB described the course nestled at the foot of Mt. Makulot, Mt. Lobo and Mt. Malepunyo as "beautiful, cool and lovely."

Before Patrick Young, who played nostalgically with PVB, said: "Mr. Malarayat is an absolutely excellent course."

Before playing the course, Young, drove for our development of the home front, and he was interviewed about the Open being held at Mt. Malarayat.

"Everyday, I honestly have no player from the Asian Tour will walk away from this course not feeling happy and absolutely entertained," said Young, who once beat perhaps himself's outdoor by the world Ousting Inspirality that he reminded his speech by saying, "I hope to see a Filipino win the Open this year."

He got a warm applause.

The Open is still more than a month away but already several giant corporations have stepped forward to signify their support, among them Shoemart, San Miguel Corporation, Digitel, Philippine Airlines, Digitel, Petron, U-BIX Corp. and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines. I was told more are coming, and I'm not surprised one bit.

As Admiral Fernandez said in his welcome remarks: "The PI Open being the oldest golf tournament in the country, it is a professional golf tournament. Also, its prestige can connect the two major and we can expand by season."

Anyone disputing that must be a citizen of Timbuktu.

* * *

PARTRIDGE, The Victoria (Texas), the second only Mr. Cigarillo of Calaway, Queen died on Friday, April 8. The Victor was more than a friend. He was both a singing and drinking partner. In any golf outing, where everybody had called it night, there he was, drinking by me till the small hours of the morning... up to the last drop of the "crazy water." To his family, my sympathy is with you. He was a "Texas" he was already in his late seventies, but he could not drink him. Even when he was already in his late seventies, he could not drink him. Even when he was already in his late seventies, he could not drink him. No one sang "The Yellow Rose of Texas" better than Mr. Partridge (once, The Victoria "You will" missed.

Wushu launches summer clinic

THE WUSHU Federation of the Philippines (WFP) has launched a summer training clinic at its national training center beside PNB Harrison along Adriatico St. in Malate.

Classes are scheduled at 10:30 a.m. to noon, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m. from Monday to Saturday, according to Lester Pimentel, director of the project organized by the WFP development committee.

A registration fee of P1,000 is required to join the clinic, which is open to boys and girls of all ages. For more details, contact Irene or Malou at tel. nos. 4043492 and 4043493 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

National team members Andy Liu, Gary Cua and Peter Quina will conduct beginners' classes in Taolu (form) events.

With the summer clinic, WFP hopes to promote wushu to kids and adults for physical fitness and self-defense.

Organizers also aim to widen the sport's base and develop new talents who may eventually represent the country in future competitions. Among WFP's young stars are Vincent Naval, Charina Catacutan and Amor Pauline Paulo, who won medals in a recent international event.

Nat'l champ leads badminton roster

NATIONAL champion Alex Cuevas heads the entries in the Class A men's division while former UE smasher Melody Villeceran banners the ladies Class A in the Epson Cup 2 championship elimination round at the Olympic Badminton Club in Libis, Quezon City.

Grouped into three divisions—men's, ladies and mixed doubles—majority of the participants will begin their quest for the crown in five different categories.

Philippine Badminton Association president Amelita "Ming" Ramos and Pasig City representative Robert "Dodot" Jaworski Jr. will do the ceremonial serve at 4 p.m. today.

Opening-day winners in the men's doubles are Billy Lati and Jhun Bihag, Bing Lumanlan and Jojo Andres, Bing Rapadas and Marc Galido and the pair of Geraldo Signio and Ghino Lorenzo.

In the ladies' division, Annie Velasco and Leilani Sia won over their first-round opponents while the Pia Arnaldo and Eric Ignacio advanced in mixed doubles.

Close to a thousand badminton enthusiasts have joined the event sponsored by Shell, Wilson, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Citibank, Apple Center, Konica (Columbia Photo), Mizuno and UNO Magazine.

"We are glad that participation has more than doubled compared to the first Epson Cup," said Epson marketing manager Randy Kanapi.

Celebrities Beth Tamayo, Ynez Veneracion, Jen Rosendahl, Kookoo Gonzales, Gary Lim and film director Rechie Del Carmen will see action in the event supported by Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT, Yehey.com, PBNet, Fitness First, BHM, Chowking Madison Square and Ridgewood Hotel-Baguio.

Sanctioned by the PBA, Epson Cup 2 will have its elimination rounds today beginning at 9 a.m. after which the tournament takes a four-day respite before plunging into the semifinals and finals on April 15-17.

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

A success story

ON TUESDAY, April 5, a Belgian delegate to the Inter-Parliamentary Union general assembly being held at the Philippine International Convention Center was robbed of P9,000 and $68 by the tricycle driver he had hailed to bring him to early morning Mass.

On Friday, April 9, a Pasay City Regional Trial Court found the driver, Victorio Mallari, guilty of robbery and slight physical injuries, and sentenced him to at least four years and 20 days in prison. His victim, Georges Brion, the assistant secretary general of the parliament of Belgium, testified in the morning, and was in the courtroom when the decision was read in the afternoon.

Case swiftly closed.

Mallari's criminal act had the potential to turn into a lasting diplomatic embarrassment for the Philippines, which hosted the IPU general assembly for the first time. Brion, after all, was only going to Mass, and was only thinking of dining in the Philippines when many Filipinos do all the time: take a tricycle to the nearest church.

What was close to him on early Tuesday morning was clearly unconscionable: Filipinos had not only robbed a foreign guest; they had victimized someone who was in fact seeking their help.

The police's speedy reaction and Judge Pedro Corales' dispatch have helped stopped potential harm turning into shameful reality. And Brion has the satisfaction of returning to Belgium knowing that justice has been served, and that he had done the decent thing: cooperating fully in the legal process, but at the same time refusing to blame anyone else but the criminals for the crime.

On Tuesday morning, after Brion reported the incident, the Philippine National Police immediately launched what in its jargon is called a saturation drive. Scores of officers descended on tricycle stations in the area where the robbery took place, eventually rounding up 15 suspects who seemed to fit Brion's description of his driver. But Mallari was not among them.

The PNP however, had also put its network of police informants in the area to good use. One of them heard Mallari boast about his early Tuesday morning exploit, and pointed him out to the police. Mallari was arrested on Wednesday.

On Friday morning, he was arraigned at RTC Branch 118, and his trial commenced. While he entered a plea of not guilty, he did previously admit that he had indeed robbed Brion, by bringing the tricycle to a side street near the Pasay City Hall. But he said it was a certain "Jess" who had injured Brion with a knife, and who actually kept the money. ("Jess" is still at large.)

Mallari was found guilty based on the "positive identification" Brion made, and the testimony of a police officer who explained to the court how the PNP had traced the crime to the tricycle driver.

From crime to conviction to four days: This must be a new and welcome record in the administration of justice.

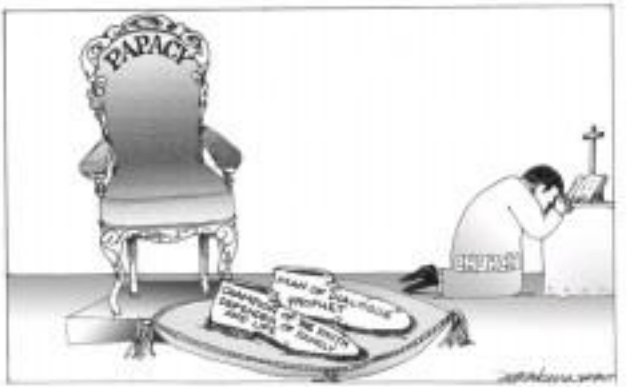
A cautionary tale

THE SWIFT action on the Georges Brion case injustices praise, not surprisingly in a country where the wheels of justice grind exceedingly slow. But at the same time, it also raises concerns, precisely because the named wheels did not merely move; they lurched.

We note that the tricycle driver Victorio Mallari was convicted based on a positive identification by the victim and comprehensive testimony from the police. Even if we discount Mallari's confession (as a simple precaution, knowing that the police can sometimes be extraordinarily persuasive), there is still the fact that Brion, the Belgian delegate to the IPU, identified Mallari after being shown 15 other suspects.

And yet, even if everything were in order, the swift and successful prosecution of the case would still raise concerns. If the victim were not a senior politician attending a major international conference, would the police have responded with the same vigor? Would the Department of Justice, through its city prosecutors, have acted with the same dispatch? Would the judge have readjusted his schedule and written his decision with the same urgency?

It is truly a sad commentary on the times when an unbelievable triumph of justice, such as the Brion case, throws an unflattering light on the thousands of other cases that clog up the courts' dockets. If justice can be served swiftly, why can't it be done regularly, as a matter of course?



The right to die

SEPARATE OPINION

Augustin S. Cruz

THE TRAGIC story of Terri Schiavo is over. she died last week while the world was still pondering her fate. She suffered a heart attack 15 years ago that left her non-responsive. Her husband Michael Schiavo sought the court's permission to remove the tube in accordance, he said, with her wish. Her parents objected, claiming that their daughter's wish was not clear and that her will is in no hospital but terminal recovery.

The husband was unanimously sustained in this legal battle. The decision of the county of Florida, up to its Supreme Court, based on medical experts and on his representation as his wife's legal guardian, were all in his favor. President George W. Bush intensified in the denouement of a specific law allowing the parents to appeal to the federal courts, the case with this recondemnatory measure duly failed. They intervene in a federal district court, three times before a district appeals court, and six times before the US Supreme Court.

If the high courts had chosen to accept the case, serious constitutional questions might have been raised, including separation of powers, federalism, due process, privacy, right to live as asserted by Terri's parents, and the liberty as she as invoked by her husband. But the justices simply refused to intervene, upholding the jurisdiction of the courts below and sustaining the correctness of their rulings.

I sympathize with the parents for their determination to keep their daughter alive, but it was against all the findings of the doctors as sustained by the courts. The courts were right to rely on the medical evidence that there was no hope of Terri recovering from her present state and living a normal life. Many believed that the parents' efforts to keep the helpless je-

DOCTOR: How do you like the hunting so?
Patient: Fine.
Doctor: how does your family like it?
Patient: I haven't told them yet, but I have changed my will three times already.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 14, 13-21), Jesus drew near and walked with the two disciples discussing and debating about all the things that have occurred on their way to Emmaus. He was on their midst, but they failed to recognize Him. Why? Because they were so focused on their own grief, fears, maybe, even doubts. Yes, He is in us and in our midst, but we often fail to recognize and acknowledge Him.

* * *

It is interesting to note that the two disciples did not recognize the Lord while they were discussing and debating along the way. But when they sat at the table with Him, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him. We must quit this as that we can recognize the Lord in our hearts and in our midst. In your opportunity with the Lord only as incidental appendages or, perhaps, a last-minute hindsight in your busy day?

* * *

"Have not our hearts burning?" This phrase best describes the very encounter with Pope John Paul II. A fact, as in a fact, has been said and will still be said about our beloved Pope JPII. How he is our three things more. First, JPII was a man who prayed much. He drew strength from prayers. He spent at least three hours before the Blessed Sacrament every day. He was a Pope, but to God, he was a true servant, and to the Blessed Mother, he was a son. It was prayer that made him constantly aware of who he was and what his obligations. He humbled himself before God in prayer, that's why he was able to bring God everywhere. Do you pray? Do you really pray?

* * *

JPII was a man who resisted much. His vigor was amazing and his zeal for the Lord's work was so edifying. So pope resisted as much as he did, teaching me to sit down, and bringing God to so many nations confronting humanity. Even in his last days, he was reaching out to the world that needed unity and peace. He was anxious to his mission even if it meant at times being unpopular. Are you busy with the Lord's agenda in your life?

* * *

JPII was a man who loved much. He exuded love in everything he did, everywhere he went. His loving and his service were manifest a show not a put on. He was not one who went for the money or for the show. He was for love every step of the way. He had a heart that burned with love. He told the world what he thought was right, and he did it all because of love. Still wonder how one person could be so loved in life and in death? That was because he loved much. In this world enough love. In your life? Are you all just money, money and everything else?

* * *

I consider it a privilege to have lived in the throne of JPII, to have walked that stretch of the road to Emmaus with him, and indeed, our hearts burned with love while he was in our midst, and even now that he is no longer right. He left behind no material possessions, but lots of prayers, beautiful memories and love. You, who are so engrossed with riches, pleasures and power, please read again the life I just wrote!)

* * *

In his last will, he considered having buried in his beloved Poland, but left the final decision in the cardinals, remaining obedient to the Church till the end. "Serva

In our midst

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

ness unto one" (I am totally yours), his motto, sums up the total dedication and self-giving of a man who sacrificed much, and who loved much.

* * *

JPII was to our minds as a Pope for 26 years, and he reminded the world that God is alive, and that God is the Father of all. It is amazing that whatever evangelization and dialogue he left us were during his lifetime is now being completed in his death by the faith all over the world. He saw more than his being right, as one of God's shining saints in this our present day and time, will continue after his reminders.

* * *

Let us pray that our 117 cardinals to our future will be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit to elect the next pope who will continue to bring God to our midst and to keep our hearts burning with love.

* * *

As we honor and cherish the memory of JPII, let us renew us and keep in mind what and what he stood for. He was the Vicar of Christ. May we all follow Christ more closely. His message was total as to greater dedication to life, family, by empowerment, youth, love, both dialogue, social justice and peace. May his death lead it us to such and overcome of us.

* * *

One of the last public appearances of JPII was during Easter Sunday when he stood before the crowd but could not speak anymore. What was he desperately trying to say? He will never recover, he knew. But knowing him and the life he lived, he was telling the world of his love, and his love. JPII, we will carry on Christ's work, and JPII, we love you too. Those was our encounter, but the memory will be forever.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

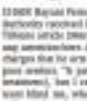
Lord, help me to pray much, work much, and love much like Pope John Paul II to make you present in our midst. Amen.

'Peter Among Us'

REVEILLE

Raimundo J. Barcelona

Tough love



COMMENTARY

Dennis Murphy

Communion and afterlife

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

Immortality

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: opinion@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Joaquin V. Gutierrez Jr.

John Paul II on family and women

THE 26-year pontificate of John Paul II was considered the most luminous in the 20th century. He has been described as the most influential voice for morality and peace in the world over the past 100 years.

Traveling to 129 countries as the 264th bishop of Rome, he became the most photographed public figure of his era.

Political and religious leaders, kings and queens, celebrities and the humble paid their respects to John Paul II, who had committed himself to human rights, peace, disarmament, and justice for the poor and oppressed.

His visits to a synagogue and a mosque and to Israel and Arab countries strengthened Vatican's relations with the Jews and Muslims.

While he was considered a "progressive" when it came to certain social issues, he pursued "conservative" theology.

He limited the authority of bishops' conferences and suppressed liberation theology, which mixed Biblical themes with Marxist social analysis.

He reaffirmed the discipline of priestly celibacy and the doctrine that women could not be ordained as priests.

On his orders, the Vatican urged all Catholic lawmakers to oppose legalization of same-sex marriage and adoptions by gays and lesbians.

He condemned artificial birth control, abortion, euthanasia, experimentation with human embryos and the death penalty.

But he acknowledged that the human body might not have been the immediate creation of God and that evolution was more than just a hypothesis.

Culture of life part of his legacy

By Mayor Jose L. Atienza, Jr.
City of Manila

The outpouring of affection and admiration for Pope John Paul II as he passing is unprecedented for any world leader. Mankind seemed to stand still to honor this holy man for his extraordinary accomplishments in his life as well as in his Holy Father, and indeed for his entire life.

Pro-life

No world leader can match Pope John Paul II's pro-life commitment. He was unwavering as opposed to any degree of moral action that led to the downfall of communism. He sought to unite Christians and reached out to Muslims and non-Christians, demonstrating how Catholic commitments to love can include human and spiritual friendship.

He took the religion for the world's poor, urging the wealthy toward institutions and governments.

Pope John Paul II summoned people to resist their religion's move to be kept hidden or private, but in a relationship of knowledge and love marked by service to God and men. He communicated this in many theological writings that add to the treasured body of Church teachings. He brought his message personally, with charisma and energy through his global trips to 129 countries.

The Pope was in each person the image and likeness of God. And so, the human person deserves respect and protection from conception to natural death.

Human dignity

Human dignity is based on our capacity to know and love God and others. No state, or dictator or compromised those principles for the sake of popularity ratings.

The Pope urged us not to allow the "culture of death" as we entered society in the 21st millennium of the Birth of Christ. He denounced practices, like the United States, he lamented the "increasing tolerance of attempts to destroy life in the name of mercy" and pleaded for "a culture of silence in respect for life."

He said these sentiments are often left alone to lose their deep sense and inclusion. His remarkable concern for mission was undoubtedly installed by his mentor, who died when he was nine, and by Mama Mary herself.

In John Paul II, we saw how the Church defends human moral law. Attacks on family and life are reprehensible not because the Pope teaches so, but because such actions are evil in themselves, and harm everyone, Catholic or not.

In "Evangelium Vitae" (The Gospel of Life), the Pope appealed to conscience to reverse the devaluation of human life, to add many committed have tried to put their consciences to justify not only direct ones, but also circumstances, assisted suicide, capital punishment, dieting and experiments motivated towards.

Contraception

The Pope also said, "The negative moral evil inherent in the contraceptive mentality – as sure such clear to all those who reject this conception when an unwanted life is conceived." He said abortion and contraception were very closely connected, as "fruits of the same tree" ("Familiaris Consortio," The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World).

He suggested instead "accepting the cycle of the woman, and thereby accepting dialogue, reciprocal respect, shared responsibility and self-control." In this way, the couple is confronted with those values of wholeness and affection which constitute the inner soul of human sexuality, in its physical dimension also."

Anti-family legislation

Our countrymen, especially our Catholic legislators, should pay heed to the Pope's images, who showed us that "moral actions of public opinion justify certain evil laws against life for the sake of the rights of individual freedom, and on this basis they claim ... even authorization by the state ... these things can be done ... with the free assistance of society's consensus."

Thomas's duty is moral. The a forwarding of House bills that attack our Filipino values? House Bill Nos. 3773 and 1900 on population management, 4013, 3523 and 877 on divorce, 634 granting licenses for same-sex unions, 1888 on euthanasia, suicide and euthanasia—these are all of our duties to life and family, and the Pope summons us to counter this culture of death.

Decent future

Since 1986, marriages have been made in our United Nations conferences to depopulate less developed countries. And the income groups promoting their security and "sustainable future" seek to redefine marriage and family, subverting and killing all of the options and rights. But Pope John Paul II told the world that a decent future must be made available to all, not just to the powerful few.

We, who have all been paying tribute to the Pope, should be alert and steadfast in our fight against the evil of legislative manipulation proceeding to oppose reopposition parenthood, health care and women. The Pope has done his part. It's now up to us now.

The Pope's Good Friday words also set an example we need. By his silent suffering, he proclaimed the Gospel of Life, which sacrifice has a noble purpose, and human dignity is not negated by physical limitations.

We celebrate the courage, integrity, moral certitude and compassion of Pope John Paul the Great. He was a true witness of Christ, a global leader. We owe him a debt of gratitude that must overflow into our personal actions to promote the culture of life.

Salamat po, Santo Papa Juan Pablo II. Ipagdadasal po namin kami.

(Atienza is the mayor of Pro-Life Philippines.)

Has he failed to cross the threshold of hope for women?

By Atty. Rhodora M. Roy-Rotairo
and Rey Carmelo Bernardo

THE Pope is dead. A benevolent figure, he has touched many lives of various faiths. For Catholics around the world, he was the very essence of goodness. No other faiths, he was perceived as having made possible the birth of new democracies and the collapse of communism.

For Filipinos, he is the Santo Papa, the brave leader in his "Pope Mobile" whom the world idolized and could not forget even as they shunned close members in their own rights to adopt contraceptives as an opportune who made practical human part of his life. But, for many Catholic women, he is viewed as the progressive leader who was naive when it came to women's issues and needs.

Was he really naive or was he just being too deep, too mystic, beyond reason, when he labels as contraception, sterilization of women priests, HIV/AIDS and homosexuality? Was he held hostage by conservatives around him? Methinks that the Pope did not really have a chance to succeed. Everyone said that the Marian belief and possible healing in the "physicalists around of the Eternal Law of God in the order of procreation" stereotyped him like a tree.

Contradictions

The Pope was a thinker who wrote valuable works like encyclicals and books such as "Crossing the Threshold of Hope." But why was it so difficult for women to cross the threshold? The Pope seemed to be a complex and profoundly conflicted person. As part of Vatican II, his papacy was considered to be dynamic to, but we believe, full of contradictions. First as he seemed to be progressive, he seemed to have treated women as second-class citizens within the Catholic Church structure.

He also seemed to have always spoken the right thing like adoption of moral abuse against some of the weak even as some of the weak were victims of sexual abuse committed by the clergy themselves. He made statements against war and realized life has created for him never seen before when I came to death due to pregnancy and child birth because of the lack of options on contraception.

Why most Catholic women deny that they are contraceptives even as they praise God for every day that they are promoted from pregnancy!

Not anti-life

Contraception is not anti-life! It is the deciding when to have children and how many children spouses can nurture into caring and sharing families. It is the providing quality life to your children by providing a nurturing environment where your spouse. Every physical act, in love, with your spouse is a covenant before God and God is present when spouses have covenanted.

Even the Pope may have not met abortion within the family and the need to help couples become good stewards of their families because his maternal was a case of celibacy.

Was the Pope really not aware? Well, obviously not. He was a bachelor, forever free from sharing the pope, he was the one who showed each love for Mary that he had the lower M emblazoned on one of the upstairs in the Vatican. So one can refute that, Rex, being very conservative, he probably made on the view of backing as Mary only from the message point of "dogmas" rather than not being sinless and a wife.

It was in his papacy that a woman who died of childbirth – putting the life of the child before her own life – became a saint. What signal did it send? That it was alright to die and leave other children behind?

The Pope loved the poor as much as that he spoke time to the Third World. But why did he not better articulate thoughts, i.e. blessed are the poor for they shall have the kingdom of God? And therefore, is it alright for families to have many children even if they are poor as long as governments and other sectors help? But that is a farce! The Bible said, "blessed are the poor in spirit!" That means, those who seek God's orders.

Why was he not able to remove barriers within the Church hierarchy, which would make the poor or equal footing with the rich? Why does there be so open for rich Catholics to have their marriages annulled within the Church's system? Why can't this become available to the poor?

Good Catholic girls

The Pope has become an icon for purity of purpose. He may probably be the greatest Pope. However, in queer Jungle Bookwalks, an award-winning journalist, and author of the book "Good Catholic Girls" in an interview with Amy Gazzuli, says, "we have a certain role that is based on an old male-chauvinistically old culture hierarchy, and it has a very unusual of problems, and the other big area ... I think we have—women have really struggled and suffered in terms of their role in the Church's fight now is in the priest system."

"Under this papacy, under the Vatican for the last 25 years, women's moral authority has been usurped by all of this male right around marriage that the Church has promulgated, not only to Catholics but around the world, in trying to build a better moral policies."

Let not the Pope's death bring forth more contradictions. The Catholic leadership is not an imperial army which should fully surrender their wives—but Catholics who get affected by restrictive policies, i.e. the separation of Church and state versus irritability. Our laws mandate local governments to provide families local governments to provide families local governments to provide local services, who violates the law to be open of parenting his or her religious beliefs, may sexuality for doing disservice as his or her commitments.

We, Catholic are many Filipino Catholics. But they must not live in fear of reprisal if their acts are morally right. Anyone who capitulates on the Pope's death to commit or spreading mortality is not someone to be just on a pedestal.

The Pope is a good man. Yes, he may have been naive and innocent about things he believed in in the point of rigidity. But, we do not think he was a fool.

(Rhodora Roy-Rotairo is the executive director of Pro-Life Philippines Organization of the Philippines [PFOP], and Rey Carmelo Bernardo is the advocacy and research coordinator officer of PFOP.)

JP II's encyclicals, exhortations and books

Encyclicals

- Redemptor Hominis – On the Encyclical Dives Misericordia (March 30, 1980)
- Laborem Exercens – On Human Work (Sept. 14, 1981)
- Slavorum Apostoli – On the Eighth Century (June 2, 1985)
- Dominum et Vivificantem – On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World (May 18, 1986)
- Redemptoris Mater – On the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Life of the Pilgrim Church (March 25, 1987)
- Sollicitudo Rei Socialis – On Social Concerns (Dec. 30, 1987)
- Redemptoris Missio – On the Permanent Validity of the Church's Missionary Mandate (Dec. 7, 1990)
- Centesimus Annus – On the Hundredth Anniversary of Rerum Novarum (May 1, 1991)
- Veritatis Splendor – On Fundamental Questions of the Church's Moral Teaching (Aug. 6, 1993)
- Evangelium Vitae – On the Value and Inviolability of Human Life (March 25, 1995)
- Ut Unum Sint – On Ecumenism (May 25, 1995)
- Fides et Ratio – On the Relationship Between Faith and Reason (Sept. 14, 1998)
- Ecclesia in Europa – On Jesus Christ, Source of Hope for Europe (June 28, 2003)
- Mane Nobiscum Domine – The Eucharist in Relation to the Church (Oct. 17, 2004)

Apostolic exhortations

- Familiaris Consortio (Oct. 30, 1981)
- Reconciliatio et Paenitentia (Dec. 2, 1984)
- Redemptoris Custos (Aug. 15, 1989)
- Pastores Dabo Vobis (March 25, 1992)
- Vita Consecrata (March 25, 1996)
- Ecclesia in Africa (Sept. 14, 1995)
- Ecclesia in America (Jan. 22, 1999)
- Ecclesia in Oceania (Nov. 22, 2001)
- Pastores Gregis (Oct. 16, 2003)
- Ecclesia de Eucharistia (April 17, 2003)

Books

- "Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way" (2004), written autobiographical account, after recounting the great ovations of his birthplace, his experiences and thoughts about the Church, covering his ministry as priest, and Cardinal
- "Roman Triptych – Meditations" (2003). This is a collection of the Pope's 12 poetic reflections on the Gospel. Originally, during his 1,116 the canonical collection of Saints (1982-83).
- "Memory and Identity" (2005). The Pope's memoirs and reflections on his priesthood, his religious life and his motivation for participating in life for God, as well as key political issues as the end of Nazi occupation.
- "Crossing the Threshold of Hope" (1994). The Pope expresses his beliefs, thoughts, and prayer for the world as he spreads of length for the first time about the major issues facing humankind on the eve of the 21st century.

Compiled by: NDJ Montenegro

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Gerapios

Villagers build own hydropower plant

MORTAR CREW
These barely-men simulate the act of pounding rice during the first Lang-ay Festival in Bontoc, Mountain Province. Lang-ay is an Igorot term for protecting strangers. The festival drew tourists from Europe.

By Archie Rico Parrado
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MALIBCONG, Abra—This is a modern day bayanihan.

Villagers—both men and women—walked and hiked for six kilometers, carrying sacks of cement on their backs for the construction of a micro hydropower plant in Barangay Matarangan here.

Others used their horses to haul construction materials. Some even got Poblacion to their mountainous, remote village.

Some volunteered to butcher a pig or chicken in order to feed the workers.

Picnic system

In this village, they called the traditional practice "piknic system."

Most of the workers took time out from tilling their lands to help in the community project. The work depending on the availability of materials, sometimes one week straight without making a break for a month," related Engr. Orlando Bernardo Gomez said.

For two years, young and old worked together, volunteering their time and strength to fulfill their dream to have electricity in their village. And their patience paid off.

Starting last month, each of the 60 houses in the barangay located at the outskirts of Malibcong ... five hours of rough and winding roads and six hours of hike from the capital town of Bangued ... has its own electric bulb.

"We are now happy to go home to a lighted house," barangay chief Edwardo Going said. "We have planned this 10 years ago."

Productivity

Residents become more productive. Tiger grass broom makers could also now work even at night.

At the end of the day, those who own television sets allow their neighbors to watch programs while others listen to compact discs for the first time.

When the villagers would gather at the plaza, they would no longer gripe or pine aloud to vocate heather at night. All they have to do is to switch on the micro hydropower plant and the whole village is lighted.

Going thanked the De La Salle University and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) for supporting the project.

"We never supposed to shoulder 50 percent of the expenses as our town income for the project but we could not afford it. We are grateful for Jica's financial support," he said.

Jica is a government agency created in 1974 to implement the technical cooperation projects of Japan's Official Development Assistance program.

Jica did not only provide construction materials but livelihood for the people as well by paying P200 for each sack of cement hauled from Poblacion Malibcong to Matarangan.

Obstacles

"The execution of the mini micro hydropower plant started only in 2000 because the implementors and the people of Matarangan could not move halfway," he said.

Going said there was conflict with the owners of the land areas that would be affected by the building of the hydropower plant.

The said project engineers had told them that each household was limited to 200 watts of power consumption.

"It is also not advisable yet to use it for more than three hours a day because they are still testing it," he said, adding that they will soon operate a rice mill near the plant.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

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A COUPLE displays their products in a booth made of banana stalk.

Goin' bananas in Lanao Norte

By Ryan D. Rosario
Tubod, Lanao del Norte

BANANA is regarded as a symbol of underdevelopment among poor, tropical countries, where the fruit is endemic and widely cultivated. Their laggard economies earned for them the moniker "banana republics."

But in Tubod, the capital of predominantly coconut-producing Lanao del Norte, banana provides small farmers opportunity to diversify livelihood sources and increase incomes.

Unlike other banana-growing areas where it is tended in vast plantations owned or leased by multinational corporations, cultivation in Tubod is undertaken on a small-scale basis and intercropped with coconut.

Around 5,000 farmers tend the crop in at least 3,000 hectares of the town's 9,000-hectare coconut fields. Usually farm size ranges from one to two hectares. With intercropping, a hectare typically accommodates 300 suckers. This can yield between P40,000 and P60,000 in gross sales for a farmer in a year, depending on the variety cultivated.

Lacatan, Latundan and Saba are the principal varieties planted. Traditionally, lacatan and latundan are sold in the high-end fresh fruits market of Cebu and Manila, while saba(s) ends up with banana chips producers in Cebu.

Lacatan can yield from P35 to P55 per kilogram; latundan, from P5 to P8, and saba(s), P4.

Crop history

Faustino Suazo, municipal agriculture officer, said banana was not an important crop sometime ago, apart from serving as markers of landholding boundaries, and for household subsistence.

But it was observed that the town's 12,000 hectares of agricultural lands were suitable for banana because even in rocky soil, the crop grows well.

This observation became the cornerstone of a livelihood enhancement strategy developed around the mid-1970s to take farm incomes, said Romeo Jeder Cruz Neri, then the town's mayor.

Neri added that to stimulate this development track, banana was used as the object of a festival that started in 1977, now known as Sagingan.

Since then, the local government has encouraged banana farming, driving the entry into the town of various varieties brought in from traditional banana growing areas in Mindanao. This spurred further cultivation of the native varieties.

The call for wider banana cultivation has been very pronounced during the crisis years of the coconut industry in the early 1980s due to the aflatoxin problem.

"Today, banana is the second major crop of the town next to coconut," said Suazo.

Currently, the town grows a total of 20 banana varieties—15 for food consumption, including lakatan which is used for making cakes. Some varieties are sold locally for growing as backyard and garden ornamentals.

Apart from paying homage to the crop's economic importance, the Saginggan showcases the productivity and diversity of varieties tended in the town's banana farms.

Per festival record, the largest bunch ever harvested was that of a giant saba(s) weighing 88.5 kg. The typical bunch size of bananas harvest is 30 kg for lacatan, 20 kg for latundan and 50 kg for saba(s), noted Suazo.

Tubod is capable of producing 200 tons of bananas every week, mostly of the three major varieties.

Because of the natural richness and fertility of the soil, most of the bananas are grown organically, free of costly chemical inputs, especially pesticides.

Aside from reduced farming cost, the local bananas offer a competitive edge in the market, said Suazo.

Health-aliens, who are not familiar with organic farming, usually take issue with spots in the banana peel, he said. "But upon learning these are organically grown, they take a different stance. 'Organic' certification is therefore important for us."

In areas that require fertility boosters, Suazo said that for over a year now, they had been testing the use of seaweeds from Pangasil Bay, "with significantly good results."

He cited a study conducted by fishery technologists from the Mindanao State University showing that Tubod's portion of the bay waters had high nutrient content and rich in potassium needed for healthy banana growth.

Prospects

When the banana growing program was just starting, those who responded were farmers who owned the land they till.

Today many coconut landlords have allowed sharecroppers and farm workers to tend the crop. Through the facilitation of the local government, a production sharing scheme agreeable to both sides was formulated.

Suazo said landlords were attracted at the "veritable experience" of other coconut estates where coconut production perked up when intercropped with banana. This development boosted the expansion of coconut lands cultivated also into banana fields.

At present, almost half of the total number of banana farmers are either sharecroppers or farm workers.

The prospects are bright. For now, a banana chips processing plant was set up in 2003, gobbling up all available harvests of saba(s). The business is knocked in "first fry" operation, sends the chips to Manila for further processing, and exports these to China.

Suazo disclosed an impending deal involving the cultivation of the Earth variety between the local banana growers association and an agricultural marketing company.

The Spanish government extended a P10-million grant to the municipal agriculture office so that it can effectively respond to the needs for support services of the local banana industry. The grant aimed to build the local capacity for technical outreach and training, and set up a banana tissue-culture laboratory for further variety improvement.

No wonder the people here is optimistic about their place being called "the banana town."

A SPECTATOR to the recent Saginggan examines the largest bunch of banana so far harvested in Tubod town.

SC rules Ecleo case trial to stay in Cebu

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU, CITY—The Supreme Court has ruled that the trial of the parricide case against cult leader Rolmo Ecleo Jr. will stay in Cebu City.

The Supreme Court Second Division, in its resolution dated March 16, has rejected for lack of merit the second petition of Ecleo to transfer the venue of the trial of his case from Cebu City to Manila.

Ecleo's legal counsels—lawyers Orlando Solmerdo and Giovanni Mina—filed a second motion for a transfer of venue last year, citing the so-called hostile environment in Cebu City and their client's desire to be on a neutral ground for the trial of his case.

Ecleo's legal counsels filed the petition shortly after the private prosecutor of the case, lawyer Ardee Ilano Tingcay, was taken inside his house in Cebu City on Oct. 11, 2004.

The suspect in the Tingcay killing was then allied as Michel Nerda, a member of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), the group led by Ecleo.

Solmerdo told the Inquirer yesterday that they would still evaluate whether they would file a motion for reconsideration.

Besides, Solmerdo said, they have yet to receive the copy of the decision.

"We will decide what to do after receipt of the copy of the Supreme Court's decision," he said.

Ecleo's defense team first asked the SC to transfer the venue of the hearing in 2002 after an inmate of the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center (BBRC), where Ecleo was jailed, had allegedly tried to stab him using an improvised weapon made out of an empty container of toothpaste. The SC dismissed the petition in the same year, also for lack of merit.

With the dismissal of Ecleo's request to transfer the venue of the trial, Judge Geraldine Faith Econg, of the Cebu Regional Trial Court Branch 9, was poised to hear duties as acting that she will proceed in conducting the hearings based on the earlier schedule she has set.

Econg said she hoped to finish the trial before the end of this year.

Ecleo was charged with parricide for the death of his wife, Alma Bautial-Ecleo, on Jan. 5, 2002.

The decomposing body of Alma, 37, was found inside a garbage bag that was dumped in Barangay Cogon, Dalaguete town, some 65 km south of Cebu City, on Jan. 8, 2002, two days after her family reported her missing. Autopsy reports showed that Alma died of strangulation.

Ecleo has been out on a P1-million bail since last year after his doctors attested he required medical treatment for a heart ailment.

FILE photo of the cult leader.

ROUNDUP

Town dad held for homicide

ROXAS CITY—Policemen Friday arrested a municipal councilor in Buenavista town, Capiz, in connection with the homicide of a town mayor who died last year. Alberto Fajardo was later released after posting bail of P40,000 for his temporary liberty. Reports said the councilor gave himself up when police officers went to his house in Barangay Poblacion to serve the arrest warrant issued by Judge Ignacio Arejar of Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Dumalag-Tapaz. Fajardo is facing homicide charges for killing former mayor Ireneo Bernabe Jr. in an alleged gunfight in 2004.
Felipe Dalisi, PDI Visayas Bureau

5 die in road heist

SAMAR (WOO) (NEW)—Two persons were killed and five others wounded when armed men robbed a Tagaytayan City-bound passenger van in Quinale, Agnayo, on April 6. Supt. James Andrew Mabaz, Pagsanjan police director, identified the fatalities as Victorino Catalo, 52, Barangay, And Rabbadi and Fred Macapanig, all residents of Tiaon, Calapan. The 60s fatality, a 50-year-old man, has yet to be identified. Mabaz said the two suspects boarded the Elf van in Barangay Bilaran-ay in Tiaon and declared a holdup when the vehicle reached Barangay Bukaan at past 1 p.m. The suspects seized the passengers' money and belongings and shot them as they fled, Mabaz said.
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 killed in carabao theft

BULACAN, Isabela—Three men who tried to steal a carabao and a calf in Barangay Calaocan have been killed in a gunfight with policemen on April 8. Senior Supt. Napoleon Estilles, Isabela police director, said the suspects, whose names have yet to be released by the police, engaged policemen in a gunfight that left all three dead. Recovered from the suspects were a .22 cal. rifle, a homemade .38 cal. revolver and bullets. Estilles said their attempt theft is a persistent problem in Quezon, which is located near Kalinguyan Mountain.
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Billiard hall to be removed

CITY OF CALAPAN—Officials of Barangay Tawagan here are planning a resolution asking for the immediate removal of a billiard hall at a condominium project in their village. They said residents were complaining about the noise it created.

Barangay Chairman Cajandig has called the attention of the city government to regulate noise in the community.
Richmond T. Mirab, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

7 killed in collision

LANTAU (CITY)—Seven persons were killed and 11 others injured after a truck-bound bus collided with a stationary utility on the Manila-Nasugbu highway in Barangay Maduhan, Alfonsuran, Quezon last week. A report from identified the casualties as Alfonso Carmona, 3, residents of Lantau, Jocelyn Valladolid, Jaime Carlo Pineda, Joselito Valladolid, Rubin and Corazon Bandiola, all from Alfonsuran. The property driver identified as Bernardo Vida, 40, of Barangay Villabrito, Guimaras Island, also died in the accident. Police said that a second truck, the still unidentified driver of Silver Star Liner, to overtake the four vehicles ahead of him when the property coming from the opposite direction appeared to a sharp curve and collided head-on with the bus. Still the casualties that died another spot were passengers of the property, four other property passengers suffered serious injuries, while 11 other bus passengers were also injured. The bus driver fled after the collision.
Dalle T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Ex-mayor sues mayor for libel

BAGUIO (CITY)—Mayor Bernie Bautista found himself being a libel suit on Friday from his predecessor, Bernardo Vergara, over a series of interviews he supposedly made that described previous Baguio mayors as "corrupt."

Vergara, a retired La Union judge, ran an anti-corruption campaign during the 2004 elections against a pay-parking fees and a proposed Camp Judge Ibay-venders, uttering against Vergara by a wide margin.

One of Vergara's first acts as mayor was to require executive to ignore Jadewell administrators as well as at least 12 automated parking meters. He also instructed the police to help Baguio residents, who refused to pay Jadewell's parking fees.

Violations

Vergara said the Jadewell contract violated all major public works laws because the government had granted a nonexercise fine the authority to usurp police powers over city roads.

But Vergara is seeking P65 million in damages from the 76-year-old lawyer for accusing unnamed city mayors of graft for allowing the Jadewell the Parking Corp. to operate in the city.

Vergara's complaint stemmed from a March 17 press conference at City Hall where Vergara allegedly decided his unnamed predecessors for passing the Jadewell contract despite its illegal infirmities.

The mayor also said visited the lawyers in March about an investigation that would determine how and why the privatization of Baguio pay parking even took place. Vincent Cabreros, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cotabato kidnap victim's kin seek medical help for trader

COTABATO CITY—The relatives of a Filipino-Chinese trader seized here by suspected Pentagon kidnap gang members yesterday appealed to his captors to free him because he is ill.

Provincial Substitute, brother-in-law of victim Benny Ibrah (not Gina as earlier reported), said the family is yet to hear from the kidnappers and their victim.

"We are waiting for his calls," he said.

This as the military's anti-kidnapping task force identified two of the suspects as Mohaki Opiar and Omar Wayan, both members of the Pentagon kidnap group.

Lt. Gen. George Lumbag, chief of the Army's Task Group Ranao, said one of the suspects hit Ibrah with a handgun in the head when he resisted the abduction.

"Hanan (Ansi Ibn) head injuries, give him medicine and allow him to talk to us," Substitute pleaded to Ibrah's captors.

Ibrah, owner of Ilota Marketing and Solid Marketing, was driving his Innova FS out of his residence along Iloilo Thereon 8:00 a.m. 10 May when the suspects abducted him. The kidnappers concealed his vehicle and sped off.

Army and police authorities have discovered the Innova FS abandoned in Barangay Bagua 3 here. Traces of blood, believed to be that of Ibrah, were visible in the vehicle, Lumbay said.

The Ibrah kidnapping has created a chilling effect on the city's business community.

"This is what we are telling our businessmen here, we have to be careful because they (kidnappers) are just there lurking around us," said Omar Tan Mining president of Cotabato City Concern Association.

Ading appealed to fellow traders to be security conscious. He said the business community here still believes that the authorities can stop the kidnappings.

"Kidnapping incidents drive away investors, this is not good for the city," he added.

Cotabato City Mayor Muhaimin Sema also warned the kidnappers that they would be caught soon.

"From Benny Ibrah and his son Ansi please, and your family with their money," Sema said in a radio interview addressing himself to the kidnappers. *Sybarich Farmonine and Charito C. Salinas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

OFFERING
Parishioners at the Our Lady of Assumption church in Dalandanan, Bifiay, offer flowers and candles in front of a portrait of Secretary Pope John Paul II, whose death is mourned by many Filipinos.

Fear envelops jail as 4 inmates die in succession

COTABATO CITY—Fear continues to grip some 10 prisoners of the City Reformatory Center with the death of an inmate due to "cardiac arrest" on Wednesday, the fourth in less than a month.

Medical findings showed they died of heart failure but prison officials expressed doubts after talking to survivors, who claimed to have witnessed and experienced the presence, in various occasions, of ghosts, a white lady, children playing, a giant crocodile and monkeys on the rafters, cramped up, said city jail warden Insp. Dinga Acob.

Arab said Rifki Mohammad Taliban, 35, died while being tended in the Cotabato Regional Medical Center.

Arab earlier sought the intervention of Islam and Catholic clerics following the death of the first three inmates prior to the civil service of Holy Week.

Confirmed dead due to the so-called "cardiac/pulmonary arrest" were Abdi Hamid (March 14), Ilberson Tanghal (March 16), and Jaime Cardinez (March 19), all in their early 20s.

"Before their death, they've been talking about seeing supernatural beings. Could it be that these inmates had been victims of witchcraft?" Arab asked.

Despite religious rituals aimed at driving out evil spirits, the penitentiary center accounted for another puzzling death of a young inmate, jail guards continued.

Arab and the guards said they believed the presence of a huge baboy ilon as the jail compound could be the source of the horror stories. *Charlie C. Señase and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DE LOS SANTOS - STI
COLLEGES OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS, INC.

DLS-STI College of Health Professions, Inc. located at 316 E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., Quezon City is now the corporate name of the former De Los Santos (DLS) College. (Established in 1973, recognized by the Ministry of Education in 1980). This new name of the school was brought about by the merger of the DLS College with the Systems Technology Institute (STI), a premier provider of quality Information and Communications Technology. The merger was a strategic move on both parties to be globally competitive in the leading ICT enhanced healthcare learning institution.

DLS-STI as a learning institution is continuously creating and providing an educational environment responsive to the national goals in order to achieve the best for its students and the community it serves.

We, at DLS-STI believe that education is the strongest nourishing force in the holistic development of an individual. We maximize our worth through academic excellence, nationalism, love of God, discipline, respect for humanity and contribution of a just and peaceful society.

DLS-STI offers LOCAL, CGFNS-NCLEX, TOEFL, USR and ELIXT Review Programs. Except for local review, the other mentioned review programs are given free to DLS-STI graduated nursing graduates through the STI-Universal Workers Inc., the review arm of STI and accepts the graduates to the best jobs local and abroad through the Global Recruit for Outdoor Workers (GROW), the placement arm of STI. We cater to the needs of our students from admission until after they have graduated from our school.

The courses we offer are Caregiver Course, Nursing and Physical Therapy. Soon to open is the Medical Transcriptionist Course.

Our summer classes will open on April 15, 2005 and the opening of classes for the first semester, school year 2005-2006 will be on June 15, 2005. Start of enrollment for new students for summer classes is on March 21, 2005. Enrollment for 1st semester for new student is on April 18, 2005.

Our College has Commission on Higher Education (CHED) recognition for the Nursing and PT Courses with No. 59 s.1990 and No. 066 s. 1999 respectively and Caregiver Permit by TESDA with No. STRED 213808 05.

We want to assure the public, our students and their parents that DLS-STI College of Health Professions, Inc. has a permit from CHED to operate the nursing program.

ADVT.

Early bets are on black prelate to be next pope

DUBLIN—Ireland's biggest bookmaking chain, Paddy Power, said Saturday that Nigeria's Cardinal Francis Arinze was now listed as the pontiff's outright favorite to succeed John Paul II as pope.

"We have received about 100,000 euros ($129,000) in bets from all over the world. It is an incredible amount of money for something like this," said spokesperson Paddy Power Jr. of online bookmaker www.paddypower.com.

If Arinze, 73, with odds of 11 to 4 is chosen by his fellow cardinals as the pope's successor, he will be the first pope from the Third World.

Paddy Power had earlier put Arinze in joint favorite with Italian archbishop of Milan, Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi, before they dropped back to odds of 7 to 2.

The 117 cardinals will go into a secret meeting called a conclave in the Sistine Chapel in Rome on April 18 to begin the process of choosing a successor to Pope John Paul II, who was buried in the Vatican on Friday.

Wagering on who will be pope is a risky business.

Bookie Aiblins Lecturt nor Raoul Pingiola, who favoured John Paul I and John Paul II, respectively, were mentioned in pre-conclave speculation before they were chosen.

Power, son of the founder of the bookmaker, said Arinze was an old strong that conclude "He who goes into the conclave a pope comes out a cardinal."

Despite the caution, Power said they have been taking bets on the next pope for five years but this betting has only really taken off in recent weeks.

"As you would expect, it has been a pretty slow button up to now. We expect it to keep building up from here on.

"It is crazy, we have recently had people opening up accounts with us from as far away as Mexico and Australia. I think we are the only bookies in the world taking bets on it." AFP

GMA back, defends trip to Rome

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHOENIXVILLE Municipal Airport yesterday justified holding a special chartered flight to the Vatican to attend Pope John Paul II's burial amid criticism that this contradicted her self-imposed austerity measures in government.

"I went to Rome in the name of the Filipino people to be beside Pope John Paul II as he is brought to his final resting place," said the President in a Palasyo Bayan at Bernard's Plaza in Cubao, Quezon City.

The President said that it was "very, very important" that she be present during the burial Divine.

"The Pope was very, very special to Filipinos and Filipinos were very, very special to him."

President Arroyo also related her conversation with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan during the Mass where she noted that the 4 million who attended the Pope's burial equaled the 4 million Filipinos who attended the Pope's Mass in Manila in 1995. Official estimates placed the number at the Pope's funeral at less than a million.

"We are the people that love Pope John Paul II so much and he loved us, too," Ms Arroyo said.

The President observed a Philippine brilliant scene to take her on a direct 14-hour flight to Rome Saturday with nearly 80 passengers on board.

Malacañang said that the government shouldered only the expenses of the five member officials of the delegation.

The President's foreign trips have been under close public scrutiny after she canned her state visit to China last year into a virtual New Family vacation with her in-laws, granddaughters and nannies along for the ride.

On the Rome trip, only her daughter, Luli Arroyo, came along among the Five Family members and Malacañang said that she would represent the Philippine youth at the funeral.

Church under pressure to canonize John Paul

By Gina B. Zulueta

VATICAN CITY—The clamor that erupted in St. Peter's Square was a peaceful one-hour burst it.

Thursday, by about decades or even centuries to achieve sainthood but the Vatican is expected to come under heavy pressure to speed up the process for Pope John Paul II and canonize him as quickly as possible.

The clamor, which lasted several minutes, came from the leaders who attended the last Pope's funeral—and they made sure the Church heard it.

"Santo, Subito!" the crowd chanted in Italian, and Catholics of other nationalities joined in. "Make him a saint—right away!"

"We have lost a pope but gained a saint," said Msgr. Eugenio Santos of the Church in Colegio Filipino, the dormitory for Filipino priests and religious based in Rome.

If John Paul is canonized quickly, a prospect he might not have envisioned in his serious moments, he would be the fastest, then it would be just a matter for a pope who had made the most number of beatifications and canonizations in history.

John Paul II canonized 482 saints and 13 canonizations alone. He was also a savvy beatifier, beatifying more than his fair share of controversial figures.

First Filipino saint

The Philippines is thankful to John Paul for giving it its first saint.

The Pontiff came to the Philippines in 1981 and held the first beatification ceremony outside of Rome. In colorful rites at Rizal Park, he beatified Lorenzo Ruiz and 15 companion martyrs who were killed during the Christian persecutions in 17th-century Japan.

Then, in 1987—just six years later—he canonized Ruiz and his companions.

The Pope also beatified Pedro Calungsod, a Filipino catechist in the 18th century, who was martyred in Guam.

The spirited call to make Pope John Paul a saint highlighted a day heavy with drama and operatic pomp.

Where the bell rang to start the requiem Mass and John Paul's coffin was brought out by pallbearers, nurses in gray uniforms and pious nuns from the crowd collapsed as anywhere between hundreds of thousands to a million.

Many in the crowd had tears in their eyes.

A eulogy, a farewell

The Mass was both a eulogy and a farewell to a pope whose legacy affected what was a man of destiny, a powerful enabler of history.

The Philippines was represented in the ceremonies by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Cardinals Ricardo Vidal and Jose Sanchez.

Ms Arroyo said the services were moving and touching.

"The crowd of the pope's very and the solemnity when it important is the person," she said in the Inquirer. "What is important is the man himself."

Asked to comment on calls to make the Pope a saint, she said, "Let us leave it to the wisdom of the Church."

Many in the Philippine official delegation spoke in awe when they watched the coffin sealed, later, during the sweeping ceremonies, said Cecile Guidote Alvarez, presidential assistant for the arts.

"My life pumped a gold," she said.

Both Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker Jose De Venecia, and Ambassador to the Vatican Leonardo Mercado, Alvarez said.

Doris Ray, the Philippine Mission of Zaragoza admitted he urge. "This was a man whom everybody loved," he said.

Complex and tedious process

But even without the formal process of canonization, John Paul is already a saint," said Sister Regina Rubico, a Filipino Good Shepherd nun and a former assistant based here.

"I feel [canonization] is the clamor of the people, they to be it," said Rubico. "But the life of John Paul is a testimony of priesthood is self. He espoused reconciliation and fellowship among Christians and among religions. We should let her those virtues and, in doing so, he is already canonized."

Rubico warned that formal canonization is a complex, tedious process. But she said the women and lovers have faith that the Pope had done by the late Pope himself as that, for example, Mother Teresa was lately quickly beatified.

Beatification would require a finding that at least one miracle—usually an unexplained medical cure—had taken place as a result of the late Pope's intercession. He would then be known by the title Blessed.

Canonization would require a further miracle at least.

In turn of the sick because of his very illnesses, John Paul was to be invoked often in the prayers of the ill.

Many among the pilgrims he later days of the Pope has already observed the highest accolades the Church can bestow.

They compared the Pope's public ordeal as he lost the ability to walk and speak to the martyrdom of the early Christian saints.

The chant to declare the pope a saint—"Santo Subito"—was first sung among representatives of four his John Paul that made the solemn funeral ceremonies marking and infectious.

Many, in years, valued and weaved their hands as if to feel the Pope just as they have touched and his coffin from back to it. Peter's basilica.

When the Pope's coffin was turned around for the direction of the audience, the crowd cried, "Orate, orate" ("Thank you, thank you).

"It is an solemn and moving," tearfully said Alberto Martinez, an Indian-American member of was. "I have attended other affairs but this is the most solemn and most moving."

Josef Mankiewicz, a Polish-Catholic, cried undoubtedly and held on to his girlfriend. He later said that the ceremonies were "a powerful religious purgation of the spirit." Mankiewicz, who considered John Paul "a leader Pole and a man of humanity."

Love for Filipinos

Filipino priests and religious, who—I think, said there could take number to the last that John Paul had a special regard for the Filipinos.

This was shown, they said, was when he greeted the priests of the faithful during Mass—not read in Tagalog.

"After all the masses he united as a family and a fellowship," the priest said.

Priests and bishops were among the cardinals who performed the metallurgical services for the Pope. AFP

Senate to ask GMA . . .

From page A-1

after failing to make the same an emergency item in the agenda of the joint session of the assembly of the Lower Parliamentary Diets, Senate President Franklin Drilon said it would be up to the House to read the initiative.

At the caucus of the EPU assembly, Filipino lawmakers joined their counterparts in Asian in calling for international pressure to prevent Burma from assuming the rotating chairmanship because of its dismal record on human rights. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan and the link of democratic reforms in the country.

The Asean lawmakers agreed that it would not be good for its image to be chaired by Burma, which is ruled by a military junta and whose leaders had refused to release Suu Kyi from house arrest.

The distinctively leader and her allies were the elections in 1990, but the junta has not recognize the election results.

But most lawmakers in exile left Manila in low spirits on Friday, deprived that the issue of Suu Kyi's continued detention had been ignored by the 59% member group.

"Frankly, we're not very happy about that. It was not included in the [agenda]," said Dr. Tito Sison, who is living in exile in India.

Praise for RP press

The said three other exiled Burmese MPs arrived last week with great expectations, quietly bolstered by Drilon's promise to lead moves to prevent Burma from assuming Asean's chair in 2006.

But their hopes were dashed last Sunday when members of the Asean + 3 Group (China, Japan and South Korea) decided to table the issue of Myanmar instead as an emergency agenda.

This, however, said he found comfort in the efforts of legislators from the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore to push for the discussion of the issue during meetings of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary and the EPU committee on human rights.

"Our supporters from the Philippines tried very hard. Supporters from Malaysia also tried very hard. That is very encouraging," he said, and praised the Philippine press for giving prominence to the issue.

According to Drilon, the Burma issue was not included in the official discussions because the IPU agenda was finalized a year ago.

But the issue was taken up by the committee on the human rights of parliamentarians as a resolution sent to the IPU governing council, but it was not among the 8 resolutions that the assembly of more than 1,000 delegates approved at the annual event of the 108-day conference on Friday.

The matter of whether Myanmar—which was admitted to Asean in 1997—should be allowed to assume the chairmanship is to be decided by the group itself.

Drilon said the Philippines' position was "a matter that the Department of foreign affairs and Mr. Arroyo" would have to address, as the two senior branch is the chief architect of our foreign policy."

He also said the Senate had a pending resolution expressing its position that Burma should not be allowed to assume the Asean chairmanship, "unless there is a definite timetable for the roadmap to democracy, and the human rights issues are addressed."

Drilon said the Senate resolution would talk the Arroyo to take a position against Burma's chairmanship. He said Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo would raise the issue during an informal gathering of Asean foreign ministers in Cebu City this weekend.

Before the assembly's formal opening, Asean parliamentarians adopted a resolution urging the IPU to pressure Burma to immediately democratic reforms, including freeing Suu Kyi, before it assumes the chairmanship.

But said Friday that the decision of the issue in the exhibition of the IPU conference and to the Philippine media might have complicated Asean's efforts as well as China and India, to reconsider their support for Burma.

"We believe the regime is coercing [on] the support of the Asean tiles, China and India," he said.

Sison added that the situation in Burma was not settled at the IPU assembly, the issue of Burmese hegemony is screened and dismissed by the ruling junta was taken up by the IPU committee on human rights of MPs' secretary general Rodrigo Johnson.

The committee drafted a resolution urging all parliaments to establish a "permanent group" or caucus that would press for the release of detained parliamentarians in Burma, Johnson said.

He said this would get a global parliamentary and political campaign underway to address the issue of the parliamentarians in Burma.

The resolution was submitted for approval to the IPU governing council, a plenary body like the IPU assembly that sets policy for the organization. With a report from Philip C. Salmon

Who sat where; even bitter foes shook hands

From page A-1

the official 100th name agency said on Saturday.

Khamenei told Ithin. "I strongly deny shaking hands, meeting and talking to the Israeli president."

"This claim is like other baseless claims made by the Zionist media in the past," he said.

Iran's official news agency confirmed that Syrian President Bashar Assad shook hands with Katsav but said it was just a formality adding that the two heads of state did not exchange words.

Syria is technically at war with Israel.

Sign of peace

The Church invites people at its Masses to offer each other a sign of peace, such as a brief shake. Catholics also often exchange words like "Peace be with you."

"I told him 'I feel inviting' and he said 'Thank you,'" Katsav, whose post is largely ceremonial, told Israel's Channel 2 television of his encounter with Assad.

The Iranian-born Katsav also reportedly embraced Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

Israel does not have relations with any of the countries.

More than 100 official delegations attended the funeral.

Just making it onto the front row was King Juan Carlos of Spain—Aznar—ahead of the presidents of the United States—Bush—to the second.

Charles surprised 'by outcast'

One row back from Bush and Chirac was Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, just two places away from Senator Prince Charles.

The Prince took the outstretched hand of Mugabe, an outcast according to European protocol.

The handshake between Charles and Mugabe drew comment from at least two European correspondents.

A spokesperson for the Prince said Charles, who was seated one place away from Mugabe, "was caught by surprise" when the Zimbabwean leaned over to offer his hand.

The line to the British throne finds Mugabe's regime "odious" The spokesman said in response to the criticism of the get-together.

Mugabe subsequent a EU travel ban—which does not apply to the Vatican—to attend the funeral.

Diplomatic tensions

According to the strict seating protocol, the front row was reserved for monarchs and the presidential delegations from Italy and John Paul's country, Poland.

The honored also sparked diplomatic tensions. China did not send a delegation due to the Dalai Lama's diplomatic relations with exiled Tibetan, whose president, Gyon Ilhan Inan, took advantage of a rare chance to meet other leaders at an international event.

Non-political

Vatican officials said they were satisfied at the mix of princes and presidents, saying the funeral was clearly felt comfortable by a non-political atmosphere. AP, Reuters

ROOF INSULATION
(What can we do about this summer heat?)
Now you feel the heat of summer.
We suffer it. So it the summer heat, discomfort, productivity loss, power cost increases, that's no wonder to the children who have health problems.
Also, if you are in the quality business, you know that heat affects the health and weight of your livestock.
But we can do something positive about this heat.
We can insulate our roofs from the sun's radiant heat and significantly reduce the cooling.
We have the solutions for all those problems: aluminum foil to reflect radiant heat; reflectorized polyethylene bubble to block the rays, glare and ridge vents to draw out hot air from trapped spaces.
They will help you draw heat out from your house during the day and night.
They do not use power. What's more, they are permanent solutions!
Guaranteed! Our insulation will outlast the roofs about 40 years we warrant. You can have it installed by us or others.
A note about Insulation Guaranteed. We have the products to do your aluminum foils. They do not turn into flakes with age.
Because it is reflectorized, they have the aluminum foil on both and paper sheets. They never burn, melt, rot, flake and are the hazards over your head.
Have to last plastics from your attic? Plastics cannot take a lightning and heat. Flammable plastics and bubble-like flame and black smoke. A dark aluminum foil will not. Less than a foot.
Some insulation from the 4 the of summer. With flame foil.
Enlightened choices through better products. For a better life. From Multi-Line.
Multi-Line
Simply Creative

ROOF SHINGLES
(More questions and answers for you!)
"Asphalt shingles are angled so that water will flow off the roof. Is that enough?"
Answer: There are many areas in the USA where the temperature remains below freezing for months. Consider the Texas, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and Minnesota areas where temperatures go as low as 0°F. Combine that with heavy snowfall and you have a recipe for ice dams. Ice dams are formed when snow melts and refreezes at the overhanging eaves. Water backs up behind the ice dam and leaks into the home and causes damage. Ask the contractor to specify underlayment that is ice and water shield.
"What's shingles, in shorts mean to me? Should I worry about sun penetration through them?"
Answer: Asphalt does not rot, crack and warp under sunlight. Even textured shingles made are found in the Philippines. They are not exposed to solar heat.
Multi-Line shingles have become the accepted standard in roofing

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Multi-Line
Simply Creative

SANCHEZ, Jenamy A., UP-Diliman, 87.43

DE Vera, Ronald P. UP-Diliman, 86.95

MENDOZA, Charles Martin B. San Beda College, 86.75

LABRADEL, Ma. Cristina C., University of San Carlos, 86.50

DIZON, Kevin Vincent M. San Beda College, 86.14

MARTIN, Meinrad Earnshaw G. Ateneo, 86.05

TAN, Ma. Melissa C. San Beda College, 85.53

PEREZ, Joseph Joemar C. UP-Diliman, 85.45

SILVA, Mel Kieran S. UP-Diliman, 85.4

JAVIERO, Ma. Melissa D. University of San Carlos, 85.38

TOP 10 BAR EXAMINEES (above)

Ban the bar; it's not true test for lawyers–Miriam

Front page A1

for admission to the bar.

Santiago made the announcement yesterday the day after the Supreme Court released the list of successful bar examinees for 2004.

Santiago said she would propose that the bar examinee replaced with a National Law School Aptitude Test (NSLAT), taken as a requirement for admission to law school and similar to the National Medical Admission Test for aspiring medicine students. She said there should also be a one-year Legal Internship Program after class student graduates.

She said the high court conducts the bar exams every year pursuant to a provision in the Constitution granting it the power to promulgate rules governing admission to the practice of law.

"The bar exams is not the best gauge of one's aptitude to practice law because it fails to test the skills needed in the legal profession," said Santiago, who earned her law degree at the University of the Philippines and went on to become a judge, law professor, government official and senator.

Santiago cited results of a recent study titled "Survey of the Legal Profession," conducted by former UP College of Law Dean Merlin Magallona and lawyer Manuel Theo Bautista. According to the study, a sizable number of lawyers believe that the bar exams are not a good index of legal competency for the following reasons:

- Passing the bar exams is not an absolute guarantee for the successful practice of law;
- Not all bar topnotchers are good in the practice of law;
- The bar exams is a test of memory and not of competency;
- Examinees are expected to know everything at one time;
- Passing the bar exams is a matter of chance and luck;
- The bar exams is just one index of legal competence; other factors should be considered;
- Actual practice of law is the best index of legal competence.

According to the Supreme Court website, Santiago was admitted to the bar on March 20, 1970 while her husband Narciso, whom she met at the UP College of Law, was now admitted to the bar.

Santiago's son, Mcmaster Rubayt, committed suicide more than a year ago, after the UP College of Law administrative committee he solicit year 2003 denied him entry. With PDI Research

After lifetime of waiting, Charles, Camilla wed

Front page A1

ple, police said. Many were foreigners who had come specially for the day.

In comparison, around 800,000 had turned out in London in July 1981 when Charles' royal fiancée to the doomed splendor of St. Paul's Cathedral.

The couple smiled and waved as they emerged in his-n-hers through the red front doors of the Guildhall after the 15-minute ceremony and climbed into a dark Rolls-Royce limousine for the three-minute ride to Windsor Castle, the royal family's weekend residence.

"The sun is shining. The crowds are lifting the crown. It's going to be a wonderful day," said Harrison on BBC radio shortly before the nuptials.

Charles and Camilla, both divorced, were declared man and wife by local registrar Clair Williams inside the Guildhall before 30 specially invited guests and no one else at all.

Sons as witnesses

The couple's eldest sons by their previous marriages, Prince William and Tom Parker Bowles, acted as witnesses.

Notable by their absence, however, were the groom's parents, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, who were to be at the grander—and televised—45-minute religious service of blessing in St. George's Chapel, within Windsor Castle.

There, Charles and Camilla were due not only to express their love for each other, but also, reading from the vows and accompanying 1662 Book of Common Prayer, to "acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness."

The mood was set to lighten up as an afternoon reception, also in Windsor Castle, at which more than 700 people had been invited, ranging from continental European royals to the likes of pop star Sting.

The couple were due to slip away to Scotland for a honeymoon on the royal estate of Balmoral.

On-and-off intimacy

Charles and Camilla have had an on-and-off intimate relationship going back more than 30 years, and in recent years had effectively lived as man and wife, often appearing together as official hostess.

But many still hold the practical, easy-to-love Camilla responsible for the breakup of Charles' marriage to the glamorous Diana, who died in a Paris car crash in 1997, a year after her divorce from Charles.

Saturday's wedding, originally planned for the day before, was hastily rescheduled to make way to clash with the funeral of Pope John Paul II, attended by Charles and Prime Minister Tony Blair, one of the guests at Saturday's blessing.

The arrangements were dogged by gremlins from the beginning, with the wedding venue being changed from Windsor Castle to the Guildhall for licensing reasons and Queen Elizabeth opting out in its present state they find the time.

A handful of royalty purists lodged objections right up to the wedding day, while a tabloid newspaper exposed security flaws by showing Irish Prisoner Castle in a rented van with a fake bomb inside.

Within the castle's gates, vests had been erected for the world's media which had descended upon the township, while every vantage point, from private balconies to the roof of a local liquor store, had been converted into temporary broadcast locations.

Charles were fully booked, and souvenir shops were doing a brisk trade in royal wedding mugs and tea towels.

What went before

Charles and Camilla fluted more than 30 years ago, discovering a love of rural life. But he ached off with the Royal Navy still here consuming their relationship. In his absence, she married Andrew Parker Bowles.

In 1981, the prince married 20-year-old Diana Spencer at St. Paul's Cathedral, a storybook wedding watched by thousands.

The young princess won the nation's heart, but she didn't hold her husband's. Charles acknowledged years later that he had broken his marriage vows after the marriage had broken down, and despite his and Diana's efforts to save it.

"There were three of us in the marriage," Diana said later...but she admitted affairs of her own.

Many Britons took Diana's view, vilifying Parker Bowles as a royal homewrecker.

Charles' and Camilla's marriages both collapsed—she was divorced in 1995, he in 1996. Andrew Parker Bowles remarried in 1996, and was on the guest list for Saturday's religious ceremony. AFP, AP

Sunday BIZ

E-mail: [redacted]

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroz-Espino

He could have been boss in family firms but he wanted to strike out on his own

AURELIO "Gigi" Montinola III today

CHILDHOOD days

THE TRIBE Aurelina (7-year-old Gigi with Lolo (Aurelio Montinola Jr.) and Father (Aurelio Montinola Jr.)

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

A CUSHY job with one of the country's leading family corporations was his for the taking, yet Aurelio R. Montinola III passed it up for the chance to make his own name in the corporate world.

And after more than 30 years, since he struck out on his own, he was named president of the Bank of the Philippine Islands—all while taking over from long-time BPI president Ramon Lotilla last Jan. 1.

It was the culmination of a long, hard climb to the top of the banking world that he had made on his own.

His journey started in 1972 when he worked for Basecon Development Corp., a Filipino-run company that ran its own businesses as well as, or more lately than, the multinationals.

Montinola's first boss was former Ayala Land Inc. president Francisco H. Licuanan III and he got P400 a month.

Licuanan is known to business circles for being demanding, with high standards of excellence. But Montinola thrived under his direction.

"He always asked very detailed questions and he was suspicious if you did not name (them) quickly. So this was good training. That's what you need when you're starting," Montinola tells Sunday Biz.

Montinola says he was just supposed to stay in banking for two years, and then work for the family corporations that included Basic Holdings and Republic Cement Corp. on his father's side, and for Ramon University on his mother's.

Working for Filipinos

But he liked working for Basecon so much he never left the industry.

He stayed with Basecon for more than two years, then moved to Citibank/NA in 1975, where he stayed for six years as assistant vice president until he got the fateful offer to join BPI in 1982 as vice president for the private banking unit.

Montinola had a good start at Citibank, where he trained under former Social Security System chief Vitaliano Nañagas II.

But the chance to work again for a Filipino-run company was too good to pass up.

"I liked the idea of working with a Filipino institution where you believe you can do well, contribute to the country and do as well as the multinationals. That was when I liked with Basecon, this sense that the Filipinos can do. That was the same reason I had when I went from Citibank to BPI," Montinola says.

FIRST JOB

In explains that Citibank—while it seemed less well—did not really need his talent to make it grow.

"I thought I could contribute more by moving to a Filipino institution that helped Filipino companies," Montinola says.

No regrets

It has been 23 years since then, and Montinola never regretted it.

He is going full steam ahead and determined to do even more for the bank and its growing base of loyal clients.

"I like banking and I like working for BPI. There is something about working for a good, professional institution. There is that yearning to improve. I always like to think that I am good at improving things. I may not necessarily be an entrepreneur. If you ask me to start a bank, I would not know what to do. But if you give me a bank that I can help improve, I guess that is where I can contribute a lot," Montinola says.

It is not going to be easy. Montinola admits, as Ramon Lotilla, who was at the helm of BPI for more than 20 years and credited for making it one of the biggest in the industry, is a very tough act to follow.

He left behind very large shoes to fill.

The 53-year-old Montinola, however, has a lot going for him: experience, a team of professionals coming to help him achieve his goals, and passion for banking that has not waned since he first got a taste of it.

Having youthful looks, a ready smile and genuine support with people from all walks of life do not hurt, either.

Montinola also has a clear direction where he wants to steer the bank, and he is confident that with the support of his employees, the bank will get there despite the challenges facing the industry.

And the challenges are certainly daunting.

"The environment is very challenging. We all know about the fiscal crisis. And we know about the need to regain pride and unity of the Philippines. There are also solid needs. There are some of the issues we just have to deal with," Montinola says.

Montinola sees a lot of opportunities in consumer banking, a field Montinola knows like the back of his hand, having headed BPI Family Bank from 1994 to May 2004, before officially becoming an understudy of Lotilla to September last year.

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Going full circle

Heading the number bank entails expanding the view, and he says he will use his first year as head of BPI to reorganize himself with corporate banking and learn more about the other considerable parts of BPI's business.

"I am going full circle, because before I went into the consumer bank, I was with corporate banking. But that was about 15 years ago. Now, I see more to look a little bit again into the corporate banking side," he says.

"I am also looking into areas where I know a little bit less, like treasury, treasury information systems. Even investment banking," Montinola adds.

He has set his sights on serving three major stakeholders: customers, employees and the country.

(SEE PAGE B2)

Montinola during a Citibank outing in Greece, 1978

Gigi and Ging after one year of marriage on Balesin Island, Quezon

THE EXECUTIVE Centre on the 23rd floor of the Pan Pacific Singapore features "Haven" chairs by Herman Miller and a panoramic view of the Singapore Skyline.

Embassy visa blues; hotel updates

By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

IF YOU think Senator Lei Ejercito was given a hard time by a FM San Francisco consul officer in San Francisco, you "ain't heard nothin' yet."

There's this story about a young executive at the local office of a Germany-based global company who was scheduled to travel to Germany a couple of months ago with their senior executives to attend conference.

A few weeks before their scheduled departure, he went through the visa application process. There were, unfortunately, some spotted rings along the way. He finally was able to get an appointment just two weeks before leaving.

But wanting to take no chances, he made it a point to be at the embassy at 6:30 a.m. for his 8:30 a.m. appointment. He was finally received at 9:30 a.m. by "Little Prince Napoleon."

Having the impression "President" supposedly demanded exclusive, submissive, the address of his hotel. He explained that he knew the hotel's name and the city but not the street address.

The exasperated "President" then "from the goodness of her heart," gave him five minutes to look up the street address.

Cell phones are unwanted in embassy security and one has to leave the building to make a call. With his five minute deadline almost over, Outstretcher had to phone and wait for the lift to reach a human call to his hotel.

Because his effusiveness still had, in call the not for the hotel address and he first had to take the lift back to the embassy floor and surrender his phone to security... the young lad bade "and windowsure" to his five-minute deadline.

* * *

The Chief Host of Pan Pacific Singapore is not exclusive Executive Centre Business needs. A dedicated Executive Concierge is on site to provide six executives of the services and facilities, featuring skilled secretarial and holder services rolled into one.

The Executive Centre features three: parking rooms complete with computers, printers and two work stations desks; two conversation rooms for six to eight guests; three boardrooms for up to 14 guests; and two larger meeting rooms for up to 16 guests, based on classroom settings.

The well-appointed meeting rooms have "hotel" chairs by Herman Miller, considered by many to be the best task chair in the world and, after views of the Singapore skyline.

Aside from being exemplarily attentive, chairs are technologically advanced audio and visual equipment. There are two function lounges, located on the same level, which seat up to 60 guests comfortably. The Executive Centre also arranges and undertook cocktails as special points are available.

* * *

Asia Pacific's leading luxury hotel group, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts recently signed a 30-year lease agreement for the Shangri-La Hotel at London Bridge Tower. The Shangri-La Hotel at London Bridge, the first European hotel for Shangri-La, which opens late 2009, is the first new-build five-star hotel in the Central London area in over a decade.

The deluxe, 195-room Shangri-La, operated by a dedicated entrance at street level, will occupy floors 34 to 52 (18 floors total) of the "Shard of Glass," as London Bridge Tower has become known. The 70-story building will include shops, offices, restaurants, residential accommodation and public viewing galleries offering sweeping views of the capital.

* * *

One of the world's largest and best known hotel brands, Sheraton, will launch in Azerbaijan, Indonesia with the opening of the Sheraton Stockholm in June 2006.

The Sheraton Silkstone Hotel will be re-branded Marriott Stockholm will go through an extensive multi-million dollar renovation of its 328 guestrooms, lobby and all public areas. The modern interior design creates an elegant Asian touch will complement the 16 existing hotel's unique history.

The hotel is strategically situated in the city's main business district of Arlanda Duma, and surrounded by major commercial developments.

For feedback or business travel info you may want to share, please send sdg1400@yahoo.com

BUSINESS TRAVEL

Tap the power of emotion to drive corporate change

"The Heart of Change"
By John P. Kotter
Harvard Business School Press
(2002)

By Cicero N. Velasco
Contributor

THE BIBLE that dominates in the corporate world are outdated—or even fatal—has long been shattered. But, in no way can our present leaders assume appearances and people how say they have to break habit of going into long-winded analysis, dishing out cold facts and colder figures.

Thus, they invested more in looking for more pure and urban issues rather than in igniting their enthusiasm for goals to be achieved or, at the very least, for the jobs at hand.

But times have changed—or have they? Have the function of emotional management diminished by the diminish of "resonant" leaders. A landmark book titled "Primal Leadership" by Daniel Goleman (who also authored an earlier work "Emotional Intelligence") prompted renewed interest in the power of emotions to move and lead people.

And yet resonant leadership was—and is—demonstrated by leaders in times past and present—even Moses to Mandela, from Martin Luther King Jr. to Jesus Christ, from George Washington to Winston Churchill, from Simon Bolivar to Tony Elliot, from CEOs Jack Welch to Bill Gates.

It is thus appropriately not a discovery, but an rediscovery of the ingredients that "resonate" to the hearts of people. Someone said a leader is allowed to exist in many things, but never must he fail to "inspire."

'Resonant leadership'

The more recent breakaway of this return to "resonant leadership"—one that inspires people (as opposed to "rule," authority)—is the science of managing and effecting change in corporations. A book, titled "The Heart of Change," addresses issues and outcome and how to manage change campaigns that resulted in truly enterprises simply because they decided that "the heart of change is in the emotions."

Kotter, the author, is categorical about the message of his latest book: "People change ... because they are first shown a truth that touches their feelings." Kotter hits for shocking, or grabbing the attention of, people to that, first, they "sit up and listen," and then are suitably empowered to embrace and initiate change.

This is an engaging and useful book, since it lives up to the promise of its sub-title which reads, "Real-Life Stories of How People Change Their Organizations."

The narratives involved on the Eight Steps for Successful Large-Scale Change. The eight are as follows: Increase Urgency; Build the Guiding Team; Get the Vision Right; Communicate for Buy-in; Empower Action; Create Short-Term Wins; Don't Let Up; and Make Change Stick. Kotter calls these steps "a flow to successful change efforts."

Every point made by the author on the Eight Steps was illustrated by a number of stories written by real people—some named, some not.

In the first way, "Increasing Urgency," the book tells of a story titled "The Dialogue of an Angry Executive." It's the story of a consumer outside frustrated by the seeming lack of listening skills of the front liners of a company. The narrative, presumably a top manager, decided to video tape the "angry customer." He did not use the usual means or

EXECUTIVE READ

speech extolling the virtues of customer relations, but showed the video tape to the firm's managers and employees who got the complaints in the raw. Results: More agree that they must do something about it.

Another success story. One firm dealing with the rebuttal of people to change a work process, is about building an edifice. A guy called Ian Lauther failed or decided not to give him a title) wanted to change the way an aircraft is assembled in many locations—travelling to the factories causing control, delay to delivery of parts and high costs. It is transparent that a change in the way the parts are assembled on airplane until it is complete in its position... Until the plane is done and done right, no movement. Period."

Kotter's immediate commentary: "Everyone thought Ian was off his rocker." But since Ian cannot be expected to abandon his theory, people followed his orders. As a result, quality has gone up and all aircraft have not only been on time, "they've been early." Until today, says the book, the "story is still being told."

Commentaries

Stories abound in this book. The tale of "Gloves in the Boardroom," where 418 types of gloves were displayed in the large expanse table, delivered the urgent message to change a process among executives of a conglomerate. There is a story of a young person CEO who refused to hang his portrait alongside portraits of former CEOs of a company since 1885. He did even more so shook the old ones. He removed the other portraits and, in their place, showed pictures of customers' stores.

What the book is saying in stories and commentaries is that people respond to the need for change if they are confronted the truth—in a compelling or shocking way. That's driving change through the gut.

And when you succeed in introducing change, improve processes dramatically, and evolve a completely new culture. how do you make sure the resulting changed culture way to stick. The book offers counsels to illustrate how to guarantee risk for people to revert to "good old tradition". The tale, "The Bees Went to Switzerland," is unbelievable it could happen to a CEO who was successful in his role as "change leader," only to come back after a three-year absence to find the people were lackof I may say so—to worshipping the God of bureaucratic fat and stinkpots.

The CEO shares a key learning: "It's got to be driven in deeper," (feedback at cnvelasco@sociopolit.ph)

He could have been boss...

"For the moment, I want to make the bank more customer focused. On people, I want to enable and train more people to do more things for more times. For the rest, to improve the financial performance," he says.

For Mercurado, financial performance means bringing up the shareholders' return on equity to 20 percent, from 12 percent, and improving the cost to income ratio to 50 percent, from 60 percent.

He believes the bank has the raw materials needed to meet these visions into reality.

"Integrity, excellence, professionalism, meritocracy, transparency and teamwork are our key strengths. High travel values are of strong importance to the people within the workplace, but you either have moral values or you don't. Fortunately, we have a lot of people in the organization who embody these ideals, and we could them above the rest," Mercurado adds.

Striking a balance

Achieving his lofty goals will mean spending more hours into his already packed schedule.

But Mercurado is not one to neck himself to the home as the superior of his family.

As his parents always told him, always have time for the family.

Striking a balance is key to effectively juggle his roles as president of BPI and BPI Foundation, husband to Gina, father of three, and a member of the board of some family-owned firms.

"I strongly believe in balance. So I work a full day, but I try not to take any work home and I also try to keep the weekends free," he says.

"My best day to Saturday it is my anniversary day. I heard someone say, and I remembered it, that the greatest forum to basically implement time. So, I just wake up on a Saturday and decide what I want to do. It could be anything like sports, going out of town, watching a movie and just being with the family," he adds.

But weekends spent on the different activities of BPI Foundation are always a welcome treat.

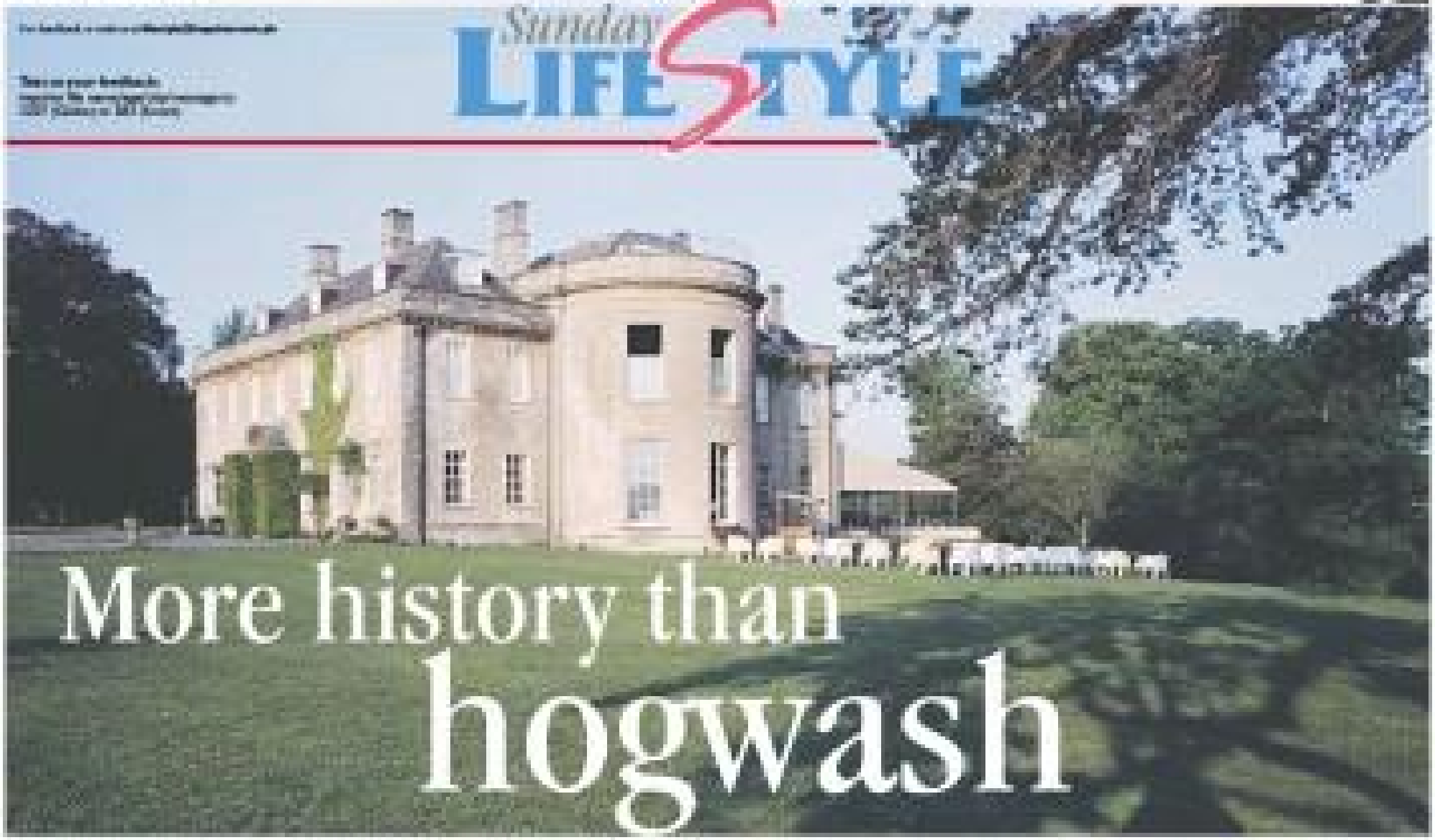
"The most satisfying aspect of my job as president of BPI Foundation is the feeling that I am contributing something to the country up. This year, we are focusing on "Pondo ng Pinoy," which aims to persuade people to save and "Move Me, Teach Me, MBL," a program that encourages and assists small and medium-scale enterprises. We have also launched Super Piggy which simplifies remittance of OFWs to their families," he says.

His BPI family provides him unwavering support in his endeavors, and he always credits their sense of belonging in the bank for much of the success he enjoys.

"BPI is a group of professionals, as you get different viewpoints at different points in time. But the cooperate version of the ideas, we think, helps produce good results," Mercurado says.

And Mercurado is dead set on keeping those good results coming, under his watch.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE



More history than hogwash

Babington House is famed for its Cowshed spa, so named because the original spa, which burnt down, was a cowshed

By Rizy Go
Contributor

THE PROMISE of a healthy lifestyle is not a new consumer beauty trend. Yet, how often do you find a bath and skincare line that borders the contour of the actual living environment of an English country house (in Somerset, to be precise) dating from the 14th century? Such is the heritage of the Cowshed brand (available at Lane Crawford in Hong Kong) founded originally to fulfill treatment and toiletry requirements for the Cowshed spa and guest rooms at Babington House.

The group also owns Soho House (a members-only dining club in Manhattan and Australia) and private dining establishments around London with the most prominent and exclusive being Soho House on 40 Greek Street with a predominantly media, art and celebrity membership roster. (A private Soho House and Babington House Club are media & allowed unless they are members fabulously rich enough in the club). Members and guests have to sign a privacy agreement, because God forbid there only be one date at Soho House in London but no sleep at Babington House in Somerset.

Steeped in history

Since the 1500s, Babington House has changed ownership several times but it has always remained in connection to nature and the community. A stream flowed through the valley and a forest to the north provided timber. Today, a walled garden provides vegetables for the hotel's restaurant, organic meats and some of Cowshed's treatment products while a lake is home to wildlife. Residents, a majority of whom are absentee homeowners in London's posh borough of Kensington and Chelsea, view Babington House headlines as a benchmark.

Sitewide entrance stained glass, Queen Anne corners and molded ceilings, dark wooden furniture combined with a Murano chandelier, modern lighting and leather furniture welcome guests and exhibits by modern artists (it's hard that modern history and medieval in both of the 26 rooms, from suites in the main house and coach house to the public and lodge, is equipped with modern amenities and individually decorated with touches such as eye-popping patterned wall paper, vividly colored walls and contemporary furniture,

INDOOR pool area

HOUSE kitchen

More history than hogwash

BABINGTON House and bird's-eye at night

COMBINED Comfort Hair Wash

HONGKONG yurt

BEDROOM

BATHROOM

RICHARD Howard

The perfumer of Babington House

MOST of beauty lies, whether claiming to be natural and organic or high tech, can trace their beginnings to a beautician's table or marketing study. Not Cowshed. The eight-year-old product line formulated by the team of perfumer Richard Howard is a business grown organically in more ways than one. Under the guidance of Babington House owner Nick Jones, the products have come to epitomise the lifestyle and mind of the first-class countryside.

Blame/thank/see as the brand's consumers as the core of top quality, pure, natural ingredients. The products were originally formulated to cater to requirements of the hotel but like any exquisitely green business, their reputation spread to the point of retailing the goods albeit in select pools of spa stuff in Britain's 12 America, Liberty Hotel's Harvey Nichols and Rotwich in the UK, Fred Segal in Los Angeles and Lane Crawford in Hong Kong. Howard commissions the brand as "part of the life entertainment in Babington House, the moment of (attached) capsized in a bottle."

Howard, a former cook at a Buddhist monastery at Sri Lanka, applies his skills and acute sense for flavors in the kitchen to work in his laboratory, forensic fragrance.

"When you come here, you want to have quality food which has a little of the Cowshed' quality where the chef really cares about where he buys his meat and the quality of produce he uses. That same philosophy was applied to the spa," he explained.

Cowshed skincare formulations, made of specially blended essential oils and herbal infusions, are mixed in baskets in an old-fashioned manner using an industrial-sized mixer, with the products, whether used exclusively at the spa is sold or retail, are hand-packed and filled. He is aware that customers may have initially picked up Cowshed products because of their funny names—Grumpy Cow arousal massage oil, Grumpy Cow facial cleanser, Grumpy Cow morning body wash to name a few—but the business has grown because many have made repeat purchases, having experienced the superior quality of the products.

You can also be swayed by marketing experts, the latest products in the market, or trends that keep every brand chasing the dominant customer base, demand dictate certain products exclusively for use in the Cowshed spa at Babington House which are not available at retail and may never be.

"It will be difficult to imitate this because you need the heritage and strength of foundation to mature exactly what we do," he confidently said. "We will always try to keep at edge and that little edge makes all the difference."

Cowshed products are available at Lane Crawford in Hong Kong or through Harvey Nichols in the UK at 8522 2167 8889 or flora@armanicom.com.

COMBINED product line

Continued from P11

sleek lighting. If you're lucky, you even get a view from cult hunk-your room for between the large bed and the plasma TV—all this style without sacrificing comfort. There are indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a gym, sauna, steam and aroma rooms, five simple rooms, a cinema featuring pre-screening releases, football, cricket and croquet pitches. But aside from the relaxed atmosphere, the draw of Babington House has to be its Cowshed spa, christened such because the former spa, which burnt down, was originally, well, a cowshed.

The right treatment

The current spa does not have treatment rooms laid out in a manner many of us are familiar with, that is, rooms lined up clinically along a corridor. Instead, freestanding log cabins serve as treatment rooms, individually decorated like the guest rooms. The therapists and representing customers for men and women (including couples) serve the same humorous labels as Cowshed products available at retail. Aside from standard spa services like manicures, pedicures and self-tanning, guests can indulge in five facials, from Mad Sukha using thread to Bull's Eye using acupressure and lymphatic drainage. There are also types of massages such as the native American-inspired Shaman Cow that uses volcanic rocks and the relaxing Premenstrual Cow, four specialised foot treatments and soaps and scrubs using sea salt, organic yoghurt, coconut and honey. All spa treatments use both retail products and exclusively blended formulas used only at Babington House (not available in the UK), the hot and cold effloient treatment, yet is Cow Cocoon, a 50-minute beauty-in-a-flash treatment perfect for people either leaving Babington House for the day or simply a quick groom or mummy-for the time-stopped.

"Not routine or what looks like a customer-under barber's chair, but one nutritious beauty your feet first scrubbed in a petal-infused tub of water. Then herbalists give your hands manicures and pedicures, foot and hand massage, an aromatic back and shoulder massage, facial and head massage, plus makeup application—treatments that together would usually take at least a whole afternoon at a salon.

Cowshed products were launched late last year in Hong Kong, and Cow Cocoon in particular, is what Flora Yiu of Senator Distributor of Cowshed and other iconic, niche beauty products in Hong Kong) is keen on introducing to Hong Kong together with Soho House's chic dining experience similar to that of Nose York and London.

E-mail the author at kitsjo.pilditch@scmp.com for more information, log on to www.babingtonhouse.co.uk

PLAY and music: Sarah of Quinborne

BABY shower of Bles Lacson and her family

24/7 family Jessica and Teddy Dario with daughters Chiara and Gabriella

Joy and stress in the last stretch

JUST as excitement and anxiety build up a month before one's wedding day, I am entering my last month of pregnancy filled with both exhilaration and anxiety—but who's complaining?

Tessa!

Tessa Prieto-Valdez

I am entering my last month of pregnancy filled with both exhilaration and anxiety—but who's complaining?

Of course, there are marked differences in a bride's and expectant mother's weights—as love one is doing the "mommy" thing by accomplishing both events simultaneously. But both screams though, there is that inner glow, causing them to beam with joy.

I consider myself a devout Catholic, but I can't help following Chinese beliefs for pregnant women, such as not moving house and not buying anything for the baby earlier than the seventh month of pregnancy. I guess it's my exposure to feng shui from my lovely designer who likes that rainbow influence in my thinking.

Because of that procrastination, panic suddenly sets in. There is an annoyingly long list of baby items to get and a nursery room that needs to be done. Worse, I have just a month left to organize everything.

Here's a suggestion to my entrepreneurial readers. If there are wedding planners, then why not baby planners that can assist with nursery renovations, baby shopping, even reminders about doctor visits?

Nothing of my last baby's stuff has been kept, for it has been done three years ago since Annika was born. Besides, my pack-rat gotten current, compare with my shopping DNA. With more generation designs for everything baby-related, from strollers to baby clothes to car seats, I am quite excited to execute my plastic cards: swipe, swipe, swipe! Tiresome type!

Colorful play area

Seeing the colorful play area of the new treehouse at the Filinvest Corporate Center in Alabang got me even more excited for baby Adrienne's arrival this May. Last week, lovable real estate mommy Shireen Uemura Pangilinan was the ribbon to open the creative center that incorporates music and play into comfort by cocktail programs.

The play program to start from birth to four years, while music classes start at 6 months and art classes at 18 months, with infants to preschooling gentle play, songs and sensory stimulation. I think it's also a way for teachers to socialize with other babies who are still not ready to have their other friends until they have left all the uncertainty behind.

It's great to be "in the know-how" able to discuss similar experiences and plan when to start taking the gym after the Caribbean.

All this stress over the remaining month has caused my insomnia to worsen. It has been getting more and more difficult to find the perfect position to rest my protruding, big belly. I have watched all the different 2 a.m. shows—reality TV replays such as "Amazing Race" and "Pure Swiss," all the series of "CSI: Las Vegas, Miami and New York. Even "The Apprentice" has become part of my channel surfing list at 2 a.m.!

I was raised to think at exactly the time the clock strikes, Pope John Paul II, passed away. I was deeply saddened and was crying at 5:38 in the morning. I find myself still drawn to the coverage—from the amazing streets of St. Peter's Square, the pope's pedestal figure, cameras to show of former living up for hours to get a glimpse of the Pontiff, and finally to the quietest, solemn burial rites where one of the Prayers of the Faithful was recited: Tagalog.

This has been such a monumental event that even the next anointing of Prince Charles to Camilla Parker Bowles has been moved back by a day. This sad couple can't seem to escape controversy. I think, if they were Chinese, their wedding would be cancelled altogether, surrounded as it is by bad feng shui.

Truly Pinay

During one of my late-night surfing salvos, I caught an episode of "Oprah" featuring the latest women in Over 30s from all over the world to encourage the viewers from Brazil's waistless hair enhancement (that brings the land of thong bikinis), the cane from Cuba seem to average about three dresses (the legal cost a low $100 in) and Hawaii's women seem to be the richest in the world (literally swimming in pearls, shells).

Competing women from several nations, the most inspiring figure was the one from war-torn and genocide-stricken Rwanda, who survived being raped and managed to stay alive as military men were killed off most of

COLORFUL playground for active kids

Inquirer boss Sandy Romualdez at the Gymboree Center

FUN relatives Luis Asuncion and mom Nanette and Cowboy Santos

PROUD dad Jaime Arroyo with daughter Bubu

NOCTURNAL gang Joel Davis, Qiaal de la Paz and Tanya Moreno

Perfect choice

Being such a night-time person, I was a perfect choice as one of the hosts for the Subic 24/7 Nocturnal Awards organized by his cousin Teddy and Jasmin Dario, recently held at the Manila Polo Club.

The event awarded the different nightspots, bars and restaurants in the city and honored the late Bihar Amador for the legacy she left behind in the theater world.

For music, stage and TV scores Pinky Amador is actively promoting Repertory Philippines with its ongoing play "Whole Hills Is It Anyway?" which runs until April 24 at Ayala Triangle Theater in Orange at Union both. I am so glad I have a new friend to bring back the glory days of Repertory. This city can use all the culture it can get!

So I headed the Nocturnal Awards. I joking ly promised as Tweety de Leon won the tri- last choice for Best Emcee in 24/7 career girl (I was on three December issue). Tweety also won the Subic Nocturnal Style Award and brought home a new Subic 7200.

If only home there was going to be such a fabulous prize, I would have talked all my friends to rent in, just to win that phone!

Sorry last nights are now glued to the Masters golf tournament. I am thinking about how fast I can get back in shape and start playing golf. It's the perfect thought, as I head to the refrigerator weighing what's crash to me as I eat!

E-mail me at mayi.tuazon@inquirer.com.ph.

GUESTS of honor Sec. Alice Pangilinan and his wife, Sharon Cuneta

GYMBOREE Alabang owners Jackie Aquino, Ann Tan, Mikee Jaworski, Joy Lagdameo and Baba Arroyo

HONOR roars. Cristina Trinidad, Jill Lizardo, CM Pontioki Rivado and Luanne Brid

INQ7 boss Paulo Prieto and Pinoymix Barranda

REPERTORY Philippines artists Charlie Bartosh and Pinky Amador

TALL fashion moms Tessary de Leon and Rowena Gonzales

HIP Nokia guests Robert Davis and Nicky Butler

PILATES instructor Marilou Bumolo and Angel Jacob

SPORTY girls Jessica Rodriguez and Elyse Cuchapin

NANCO Pretorio and Bunny Lasa

MICHEL Lhuillier, Amparito Llamas Lhuillier and Fred Frank Fricke

TERESING Mendoza and Rosalind Ocampo

A 'knighting' in Cebu

THE CEBU chapter of La Chaine des Rotisseurs must be one of the fastest-growing worldwide. At a recent glittering event, 23 new members were inducted into this prestigious gourmet organization.

Fred Frank Fricke, chancellor-president of La Chaine in the Philippines, dubbed each new member "Chevalier" and "Dame" with a flattering sword.

La Chaine's Madame in Hell in Cebu is **Amparito Llamas Lhuillier**, who presented each inductee with the famous chain-of-a-castle band. She was stunning, as always, in a black Oscar de la Renta gown sent by her celebrated daughter, **Monique**. The cascade of diamonds was from her own personal collection.

The range, too, in welcome all the new members were Michel Lhuillier as vice ordonnateur of Etoile Wendell des Guerriers (investitures, an organization with ties to La Chaine); **Teresing Mendoza** as vice conseiller provincial; Dr. **Julian Bruno** grande, treasurer; **Al Evangelio**, press officer; and Dr. **Nestor Llamas**, chargé de mission with the duty to announce, and implement, special rules.

Some of these rules are: dress code must be followed; pagers, cell or mates are not invited; politics and religion should not be discussed; no standing or during dinner; and unruly behavior should be avoided.

Fabulous meal

Hotelier Bontrich a 5 high-ranking member of La Chaine in Cebu as vice conseiller ordinaire. It he wasn't around for the induction then it was because, as executive chef of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, he was in the kitchen preparing the fabulous menu. He had 204 people to cook for, and to serve with impeccable finesse.

The event had a Mardi-and-white theme, and the venue was the grand ballroom of the Waterfront Hotel. The hall must be close to a bestiary, if not more, is nice. There tables were draped entirely in black. The hotel's deli had the stage covered in black velvet, of course.

Guests sipped chilled Veuve Clicquot champagne as they mingled and greeted each other, and posed for unmistakable photographs. Thoughtfully in front of the door for the inductees was a "mini-reception," Fred Fricke called it — small tables and chairs were arranged for the ladies.

Ranging from the ceiling, right in the center of the ballroom, was a huge chandelier in white silk that enclosed the flower area. Silver Tiffany chairs were specially made for the occasion, complementing the well-laid tables draped with white damask and adorned with fine porcelain, crystal, cutlery and elaborate centerpieces. There were white roses, lilies, varieth plumes and sparkling crimson for the ladies to wear to themselves.

Impressive

The hotel's general manager, **Marco Frederic**, was among the new inductees, and he must've minded the whole thing. He didn't know where to turn as congratulations came from all directions.

Margie Lhuillier explained she was not a new inductee, but rather a returning member as she joined La Chaine when it started in Cebu 11 years ago. She spends a lot of time in Las Vegas where she has a thriving business interests.

Among the new initiations were **Robert Lilja**, the new executive chef of the Cebu Marriott Hotel; prominent antique collector **José del Prado** whose wife Lucky Jose Lamacchia) was wearing a beautiful gown by Inno Sotto; **Martha Dumon Mapp**, new director of Dusit International; and **Ricky Dakay**, president of the Cebu Rotary Club which will celebrate its diamond jubilee (75 years) in 2007.

Other inductees: **Marian Dumpit-Lai**, general manager; **Jim Wright**, resident manager; **Deirdre Batlolo**, **Jürgen Pesch**, **Melinda Bunay**, **Herve Lamport**, **Grace Spano**, **Rose Ortiz**, **Enzo Dumpit**, **Jorg Dimiles**, **Jorgie Pappavasiu**, **Tom Flinn**, **Conni Heise**, **Philippe Peppe**, **Angelo Rizzo**, **Stefan Jesse**, **Lars Lutgens** and **Jeremy Young**.

The evening progressed with the guests partaking a delightful meal prepared solely by the executive. Fine wines and, after dinner, liqueurs and chocolate cocktails were served, also prepared by Chef Gerrick. Then it was time for the show.

The magic's velvet curtains parted to reveal a him-side scene, lit by a dozen crystal chandeliers. The all-new Sandugo Chorale and Orchestra, under "ballet diane." The best dancers from the Queen City Chamber ballet Bread about in "Les Sylphides."

Directed by Ballroomtown's **Bella Villarino**, the piece was performed by **Monique Portelin**, **Sheila Lendio**, **Thea Pola**, **Mona** ez Villarino, **Krystal Ong**, **Aries Onozawa**, **Marianne Vlavilond**, **Tracy Chan** and **Wesley Ramona** (the male soloist).

My late friend not that they had all been to costume since 8 p.m. for the midnight performance. Real troupers that they were, they did the number splendidly, and (also) hopefully there to do a repeat at the next ballet recital.

Old love rekindled

DEAR Emily,

I am in my 40s and married happily for over 15 years. My problem started when I met a former love.

It's really strange that we met again after more than 20 years. He is also married, happily, as he claims.

We go out — lunches, dinners, coffee. We chat on the phone and catch up on each other's lives. There we get closer and closer. We think alike and get along so well. He's like a soul mate and our connection is really amazing! I feel like we never missed out on those 20 years!

I'm so stressed emotionally I used to think it was just a big crush but now I know it's something deeper.

My conscience has been bothering me because I am married and it's wrong to fall for another person. My husband is so kind and loving — actually a very sweet guy. Our marriage is not perfect but it's been a good one.

I don't really know why this happened. People look at us like husband and wife and we are such a couple and I think this will eventually destroy me. My friends are very supportive but they are telling me to stop feeling this way before my husband finds out.

To this day I feel the romance pain is a not-my-street. He like other guy) is very smart and caring, but maybe I am just starstruck-ing things. What I feel for him is so different from my husband. I'm "in love" with him. I'm so much more in this pressured "romance."

Have you considered that you could break up a reasonably good marriage for someone you are not even sure if he is as crazy about you as you are about him? I'm all for love — that breathless, rush-into-without-you love — but there must be a meeting, a reciprocity of passion so great that the whole world can disappear without you even having an erection.

Have you become so lonely with your marriage and complacent in the goodness of your husband that you need this emotional upheaval for a more exciting life?

What is just friendship to a man is often misconstrued as romance by many women who see what they feel in their hearts. Remember the saying, "Men are from Mars, women are from Venus"? Unless this friend declares his feelings and motives clearly, play it as cool as he is playing it and don't wallow in misery ... yet.

Stretch this period of friendship. He might not even be what you imagine him to be. Time may come when you will notice ticks and cracks during your conversations that one day you might thank the heavens you didn't marry him!

Now, you're human and vulnerable to temptation. Just remember: Two step aways are only good for traffic.

Can't stand on her own

My husband has been having an affair with another woman for almost three years but I learned about it only last year. I'm holding on to our marriage for the sake of my children. We still live together and are civil to each other, of course, "for the sake of the children."

I don't want to make my life miserable because it hurts so much knowing they see each other and text each other every month. I want to separate from him but I'm scared when I don't have a job to support my children? I pray every day that God will enlighten him so that he will do what is right.

I don't have any idea what legal separation entails. Is it right to think of legal separation if he won't change?

KRIS

Has there been a period in your marriage when you two were severely happy and couldn't stay away from each other? What went wrong? Do you quarrel outdoors? Have you talked to your husband sincerely about your marriage and where he wants it to go? Is his affair for real or just for the moment? Has he done it before? Are you sure he is not just flirting with this woman to make him look good in front of his friends?

If you and your husband cannot communicate anymore, ask someone you both respect and listen to, or talk to him — but to beg him to stay, but just to clarify where the marriage stands right now. Make him aware that he cannot abandon his family financially even if he separates from you.

And while contemplating the 3 word, make yourself useful at ready this early. See what skills you have and start perfecting them now — whether they will enable you to set up a consultancy or a dress shop, become a manicurist or call, a secretary — anything that will support you and your kids.

Don't be picky and don't bewail your sorry plight. These little wills, I assure you, are no threat to make you miserable. They're there to make you a better, stronger and more reliable person. Believe in yourself and others will believe in you, too. Your husband, included.

E-mail the author at emilyslife@inquirer.com.ph. Subject: Ephemeris, or randomer letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms. Manrique on the program "Kalikasan Ngayon," 7:15 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, or dial 88 3:30 PM.

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — ROSTER

answer on page C3

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

DREAM isle in the sapphire sea, at Panglao Island Nature Resort

Use your Visa card, earn enough points and live it up in this Visayan hot spot

A RIDE? whaaaat're is Bohol—the Loboc River cruise

A Bohol holiday for free

Text and photos by Boots V. Bondoc

SUMMER is when people's fancy turns to beaches, mountains or, for those from the provinces, hometowns. It's the time for traveling and seeing the sights.

Of course, the trip will be even more enjoyable if you do not have to worry about the expense, particularly plane fare.

This is where the partnership comes between the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank (HSBC) and the Philippine Airlines, "Mabuhay Miles Visa Signature by Miles," hopes to help.

It aims to give Visa cardholders the chance to travel free through points they earn by using their credit cards.

"For every P45 charged to the credit card of an HSBC Mabuhay Miles cardholder, he earns one air mile (or one point)," says Diana Yap, senior vice president and head of credit cards for HSBC.

A cardholder can accumulate points by using his credit card to shop, buy gas, pay for tuition and others.

Every 4,000 miles or points earned, the cardholder can fly free to Bohol, one of the preferred destinations on the HSBC-PAL roundtrip list.

"A free trip is still the best reward you can give to yourself and your loved ones," says Raffaele Imagire, PAL assistant vice president-marketing products.

Heritage tour

HSBC and PAL arranged a media tour of Bohol with Metropolitan Museum director Jun Mercado as guide.

"[One of the reasons we chose Bohol] is it's new to most of us," says Yap as she welcomed the media group from Manila (mostly Bohol first-timers) and Cebu, at the Panglao Island Nature Resort.

The two-day heritage tour included a cruise from Loboc River and a special concert by the award-winning Loboc Children's Choir.

Bohol is a cultural heritage showcase, its history and culture is splendid.

One of the heritage structures the province is famous for, the the Baroque Church, a massive edifice of Chinese and coral stones, was built in 1596 by the Jesuits. It is considered the oldest Roman church in the Philippines.

The centuries-old church a multi-storey province by the curved patterns across the altar walls with "gold dust" that faded...although beautifully—with the years.

The religious statues and images are now priceless antiques. Mercado may be showing the signs of age, with cut corners and faded paint, but are still very impressive. Paintings on walls and ceilings are richly detailed.

Mercado said Bachayo reputably had one of the most beautiful church interiors in the Philippines.

The church kept many treasures in its museum in the upper floor of the edifice—priests' vestments with rich embroidery and delicate fabrics, images of saints and the Child Jesus, tabernacles of wood and silver, a couple of huge, wing-backed (cathedra-type) and several candle-stands.

The equally famous Loboc Church, like most colonial churches in the Philippines, has its own history of miracles, dramatic and colorful.

The Jesuit-built church's façade is an example of Philippine-style, richly ornamented with scrolls, symbols, medallions, niches and pilasters.

It has four vaulties, the main one in Neoclassical style. Two smaller vaulties, each at the transept endings, are constant of styles. This has columns resembling pierced ivory pieces carved by Chinese artisans.

Adjacent to the church is the Tahuman Heritage Museum and the Loboc Museum where heritage workshops and exhibits for

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P25,000
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LOBOC Church bell tower

the reach of Loboc are held.

Manalo and exhibits boosted the province's efforts to attract more tourists. In fact, he says, flights to Bohol doubled.

One of the highlights of the tour was the awesome performance of the Loboc Children's Choir. The 28-member choir, aged 8-15, performed a repertoire of religious songs including "Ave Maria," "The Battle" and "Panis Angelicus" plus some classical pieces. Their voices were truly heavenly.

For finale, the group sang a version from the town's musical piece, "Misa Bandaynon," which had been lost for ages according to Manalo.

Manalo said Loboc was not just home to the young talents but also to furniture makers.

The province is also known for unique furniture pieces that are mostly in demand in Manila and abroad.

Also popular among tourists are the province's seasonal fiestas.

GREAT ocean view at Panglao Island Nature Resort

Pleasures

Simple things really make a stay in a place like Bohol pleasurable. The beaches of Panglao Island in his most beautiful (clean for all), a deserved dining destination, provide a restful escape from the stressful urban life. One can simply laze on the pristine white-sand beaches or engage in water sports like diving and snorkeling.

Another option is stay in one of the villas of the Panglao Island Resort with its magnificent view of the sea and have a relaxing massage.

Of course, a visit to Bohol will not be complete without seeing the famous Chocolate Hills—1,268 of them. The natural wonder at the heart of Bohol is about an hour from Loboc.

Another must-see for tourists is the tiny, but royal Philippine tarsier, the world's smallest primate.

Visitors have to experience the Loboc River cruise on a floating restaurant, a bamboo raft adorned with tapa fruits and local flowers that sits 30-40 people.

The river has become familiar not only because of its many postcards done here but because of Gwen Morano's recent film, "Panaghoy sa Suba."

PRICELESS antique religious statues and images on exhibit at the Loboc Museum

A BOHOL treasure—the Loboc Children's Choir with conductor Alma Tejero

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TWEE a closer look at this "neighbor bird," the tarsier.

A Bohol holiday for free

STORE selling pretty and affordable native bags perfect for pasalubong

FLIGHT of stairs with 214 steps to the top for a perfect view of the world-famous Chocolate Hills

Grasses and tubers from caves and rare plants grow on both sides of the trail.

Aboard the raft, visitors were treated to typical Boholano dishes prepared including the exotic coconut soup) and the famous sunsaw ice cream.

Bohol can be a popular destination for foodies, too, with its abundance of seafood delicacies like tuko, peanut kisses and sala may; not to mention the famous brew of Tag bilaran.

The Bohol's Bee Farm, known for its organic products like upuan muffins, pure honey and herb creations. The restaurant (www.boholbeefarm.com) at the Bee Farm, owned by Vicky Wallace, serves organic dishes especially prepared for health conscious individuals.

Many of Bohol's attractions have been preserved for generations: the great churches of stone, historical landmarks, clean white sand beaches, and traditional food and delicacies. With its rich heritage and treasures, it is no wonder Bohol is now a favorite getaway.

E-mail the author at blondes@inquirer.com.ph.

Spending can be rewarding

HSBC and the Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Miles Visa's buyang ang Miles hopes to give local HSBC cardholders tangible rewards they can enjoy, like free trips here and abroad.

Spending becomes rewarding as the more you use your HSBC Mabuhay Miles Visa, the more chances you have to earn points and free trips.

A cardholder earns points or miles by using his credit card for shopping, to top up or installment, to pay for tuition or trips. Every P45 charged to the credit card is equivalent to one air mile or one point.

A cardholder who accumulates 5,000 miles, for instance, may redeem a one-way ticket to Laguna, Naga or Iloilo. A total of 8,000 miles means a one-way ticket to Bohol, Cebu, Puerto Princesa, Bacolod or Iloilo.

A round-trip ticket to Hong Kong is equivalent to 15,000 miles; Singapore, 20,000 miles; Melbourne/Sydney, 40,000 miles; San Francisco and Vancouver, 60,000 miles.

Changing a Philippine Airlines ticket to the HSBC Mabuhay Miles Visa earns miles from the trip, as well as the ticket purchase.

Points can also be earned through supplementary cards, which can be exchanged for service upgrades (in first or business class) or even reward for waivers.

HSBC's Mabuhay Miles Visa was reported to be one of the fastest growing card products in the Philippines, with close to 150,000 cards issued in just two years, more than five times the initial projections.

HSBC executives say the Mabuhay Miles Visa also has one of the highest spending averages in the industry, close to twice the average per card.

Cherie Ilay, senior vice president and head of credit cards for HSBC, confirms that, in the Gold card category, a spending of 11 times the industry average has been noted.

Two Mabuhay Miles Visa cards are available, the Classic (launched in August 2002) and Gold (launched in February 2004).

Classic cardholders get free travel accident insurance of P1.5 million when they charge their plane fare to their credit card. They double their miles when they use their card for purchases in partner merchandise.

They can also avail of HSBC's installment plan facility, which offers 0 percent on installment facilities, with the option to pay as low as two percent.

HSBC's Mabuhay Miles Gold offers the highest credit limits starting at P500,000, one of the lowest interest rates in the market at 2.75 per cent per month.

Cardholders enjoy free travel accident insurance of P3 million by charging air tickets to their credit cards. The Internet Shillings Rewards program has of P500 is waived.

The use of Mabuhay Miles Gold Visa at partner establishments can triple miles earned. Visit www.hsbc.com.ph or call 8787878.

Bella C. Rosales

BARBARA Aragon, PAL assistant vice president-marketing products; Claire Yap, senior VP and head of credit cards for HSBC; and Ria Domingo, PAL program development and communications officer

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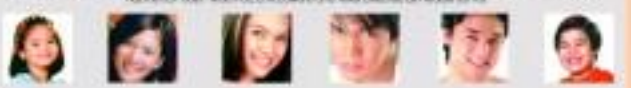

A film festival called 'Moonrise'

AT LAST, a film festival focusing on the environment. And it will happen here.

Credit goes to the Center for Environmental Awareness Education (CEAE), which entered its years ago as a training center for teachers of environmental subjects.

Now it's taking another big step toward its goals. It has not only set its own, begun filming documentaries on ecological crises in the country, but has also organized a festival for documentary films produced by others, touching on things by integrating it into standard school subjects (like history, civics, health, art and others) has been CEAE's method from the beginning. But a documentary film that will turn words into visual action is bound to have greater impact on students, students and viewers in general.

Such films are bound to reach a wider public and will, hopefully, encourage people skilled in documentary filming to participate and perhaps develop a new genre in Philippine cinema. The films must, of course, deal with ecological matters and will be presented to a film festival format with awards in various categories given to the best documentaries.

August launching

The project to called the Moonrise Film Festival is to be launched in August. CEAE's own documentaries will be shown this April.

The festival, being planned as an annual event, is open to all with entries in still that would prod viewers to keep our rich biodiversity intact and craft and heritage alive.

Partnering with the CEAE in the ventures is Agrosilvicon Point Productions which, like the CEAE, has long been in the field of environmental education, mainly through film and radio. Both organizations aim not only to increase environmental awareness among teachers and students, but also to promote critical thinking.

Nikki Hidalgoleon, CEAE president and some festival director, explains what this means. "Our projects revolve around educating teachers and children not only what to think about certain environmental issues, but also how to think about them." He believes a project like Moonrise is a good way to promote those goals.

'Charlie' awards

Awards will be given to five categories, three main ones and two others (and perhaps more) to be added as needed. The categories are: Best Documentary on Biodiversity (P75,000 cash prize and trophy); Best Documentary on Campaigns, Mining (P75,000 and trophy); and Best Production Team (P30,000 and a trophy). Organizers have decided to add two other awards—Best Cinematography and Best Editing (each getting P15,000).

The awards are to be called the Charlies. They will be the Oscars of the Moonrise Festival. A Grand Charlie will be awarded to the documentary that effectively focuses on Philippine environment and culture in an attractive, thought-provoking way.

Winners of the film festival get the idea for the name of the award, Charlie, from watching the moon rise on the eastern side of the Pacific at Charlie's Point in Barrow, Baler. There and there, they drew up plans for the festival. The project's logo, a moon rising on the horizon, was designed by sculptor the Magdalena Gadi Dalena.

Subjects

Moonrise planners have come out with a list of suggested subjects for the documentary films, including Culturally and Biodiversity-rich Places, Snatching People and Wildlife, and the Environment and its Issues. Each film should be 45 minutes or less in length. The last day of submission is May 31 but, to make sure everyone is able to submit his/her entry, late submission will be accepted until June 31.

Contact Girl Saroza at CEAE office (A. Gilmore Heights, 19 Granada corner Castilla Sts., Bay, Teletrak, Quezon City. Call 7317368 or fax 9352072 or e-mail girl@ceae.org.

As we write this, we get reports of excited tourings to the Moonrise festival, particularly from students for whom this is an opportunity to show off their skills and ideals.

Salespersons enthusiasm and energy for this non-profit organization's various projects remain undiminished. He is particularly grateful to sponsors and donors who, through the years, have kept the CEAE's seminars and workshops going. He cites the Foundation for Philippine Environment (FPE) and the Ford Motor Conservation and Action Grants. The film festival, he says, is only the latest of their unstinting support.

E-mail the author at dennisjoy@yahoo.com.

Flower shop operation course

A COMPREHENSIVE course on flower arrangement and flower shop operation for business and pleasure will be offered by Barbara professor and plant art expert Sinsipino S. Morello, 1-6 p.m., April 13-17, at Mert's Plant Art, King Louie Garden Center, Seedling Bank compound corner Tolsa and Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

The course, which will include hands-on activities, will cover: first day, Hebrew Miscellanea and Shoka; second day, all around or one-sided and L-shape; third day, oriental shape, Hogarth line and floating shop operation; fourth day free styles, bud, corsopinoso and garland making; and fifth day corsage, headdress, bridal bouquet, tie flood decor and other wedding accompaniments. Fee is inclusive of materials, snacks, handouts and certificate.

Registration is ongoing at the Flower Mart in Seedling Bank. Call 4152477 or 9354055.

Book on current favorite plant to be launched

A BOOK on ornamentals such as Bonin Is. Vanjaro will be launched at the by invitation only formal opening of the Ice Baths/Flower and Garden Show April 14 at the Senior Social Garden, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Laguna.

The show will be open for public viewing April 15-24.

The book is an attempt to identify common ornamentals or flora in the market and help plant lovers and other people know the difference over other names.

Many flora on sale in the market are simply known as Ornamentia.

Sansevieria or Sara, together with flowering euphorbias, is the latest big among plant lovers. This is mainly because of new cultivars in the market.

Sara are one of the most hardy ornamental plants. They thrive in almost any kind of weather and different soil conditions. They also do well in shady areas and inside the house and can stand stand alone and neglect.

Sara come in different heights, patterns and intensities of the fabric. The low growing types are ideal as cover plants and for dish gardens while the medium height varieties can be planted singly or in clumps.

More common Sara are now being used in landscape center islands of Metro Manila avenues.

Sara have more than 50 species in the Philippines, more than 90 percent of varieties available are classified as Sansevieria trifasciata 'Laurentii' and spontaneous from the crossed varieties.

The best Laurentii, planted in different containers, is the latest fad in florist. The Philippines is the main source of this Sara and it has other varieties that have a great potential for export.

The Sara is among the succulents and cacti that will be showcased at the Los Baños show, according to Dr Lucena, show chair.

Meanwhile, the LBDS will honor Dr. Victory L. Sagbala, to Fire president, also on opening day. An ornamental plants activist, Sagbala established the first commercial garden in Laguna.

An ardent lovelist, he was the team leader of Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development's National Ornamental Horticulture Research and Development 1989-2004.

YOU can have the pleasure — and honor — of producing a new orchid using different varieties of the same genera like Phalaenopsis amabilis X Phalaenopsis lueddemanni.

Create a new orchid

By Serapion Murillo
Correspondent

CREATING a new orchid is very rewarding. Called hybridizing, this is done usually with plants that are genetically compatible.

To start, select two healthy plants of different varieties but belonging to the same genus, for example Phalaenopsis. One plant become abundantly almost the whole year and is chosen as donor for her small flowers and not so attractive. The other has large flowers, (waiflet) trait and is usually uncooperative reluctant but blooms only once a year.

Hybridizing aims to produce a plant with the desired characteristics of both varieties—such as the floriferous vase and hardiness of one plant and the blossoms, texture and color of the other.

Pollinating the flowers is the next step. Do this when the blooms have just fully opened. With a clean toothpick, pollen spread the anthers say located on top of the column of the flower of one plant to remove the pollinia (pollens), usually in pairs and yellow orange in color. The whole anther sac with the pollinia usually sticks to the tip of the toothpick.

Hold a piece of white paper to catch the pollinia in case they fall.

Put the pollinia on the stigma of the flower of the second plant you want to cross with the first. The stigma is in a cavity of the same column but can be distinct the anther. The pollinia will easily stick because the stigma produces a sticky substance.

You may interchange the plants' pollinia.

After you have removed the pollinia correctly, label each plant with the name of both varieties you used, like Phalaenopsis amabilis X Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana and the date of pollination.

After a day or two, the petals of the pollinated flowers will wilt. Cut off the wilted petals with sharp scissors to prevent infection, leaving the column intact. In a week or two, the tip of the column will start to swell and the ovary will be enlarged forming a pod. The pod matures in three to four months, turning light yellowish in color. Before it opens, it should be cut off and placed in a sterile and dry place to dry.

Fruits of some type of orchids take about six months to mature.

GREEN TIPS

SEEING GREEN

Dorie Gutiérrez Nayalet